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February 22, 1968

Unofficial Poll Slated At SBC On Name Change

NASHVILLE (BP)--An unofficial poll on changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention will be conducted during the convention's annual session in Houston next June.

The 58-member Executive Committee of the SBC voted to conduct the straw vote to give the convention messengers a chance to express their views on the name change proposal.

Three proposed names will be on the ballot--the United Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Those who favor changing the name of the convention will have an opportunity to vote for one of the two proposals, while those who favor the present name can vote for maintaining it.

"It is understood that the results of this poll shall not bind the convention or the Executive Committee in any further recommendation, but shall serve as guidance in any further study," said the motion adopted by the Executive Committee.

After the vote of the convention in Houston, June 4-7, the Executive Committee and its administrative committee will continue the study of the name change proposal. The SBC meeting in Dallas in 1965 asked the Executive Committee to study the matter.

Since then, the study was referred by the Executive Committee to its administrative subcommittee, which assigned more detailed work on the study to its bylaws committee.

Editorials in several Baptist state papers have urged the Executive Committee to bring the proposal out of committee study and to the convention floor with a recommendation. An editorial in the Biblical Recorder of North Carolina advocating action was circulated to all members of the Executive Committee prior to the February meeting.

In presenting the matter to the Executive Committee, Charles Ryland of Warsaw, Va., said that changing the name of the convention is not as easy as it might seem.

Ryland, an attorney who is chairman of the bylaws committee, said the legal implications of changing the name are "horrendous," and said it is something that should not be decided on the basis of emotion.

"There is evidence in your committee of great interest scattered throughout the convention to continue to study and give opportunity to people to express themselves," Ryland added. "We feel this action will do that and will be good for Southern Baptists."

The report to the Executive Committee included a two-page background statement outlining key developments in the proposal to change the convention's name. "We feel the background statement is essential to an understanding of this matter," the committee said.

The idea was presented in 1961 to the SBC Executive Committee by Rheubin L. South of Arkansas and referred to the administrative committee, which recommended to the convention in 1961 at St. Louis that the present name be retained.

Editorials in Baptist state papers, however, continued and 41 study groups involved in the 70 Onward project in 1965 asked that the Executive Committee continue to explore the name change idea "until a suitable name is found." The 1965 convention in Dallas referred a motion by Charles Chaney of Illinois to change the convention name to the Executive Committee for study.

A survey of about 1,000 Baptists, 250 pastors and 750 laymen, conducted by the Baptist Sunday School Board research and statistics department showed "respondents were rather evenly divided on this question with 48 percent favoring a change, 78.7 percent opposing, and 3.3 percent indicating no opinion."

At the Executive Committee meeting prior to the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit in 1966, the administrative committee recommended a straw vote be taken on the six top names in the survey and that "the Executive Committee give serious weight to this poll and bring a specific recommendation for a name change" to the SBC in Miami Beach in 1967. This proposal, however, was defeated by the Executive Committee and referred back to the administrative committee for more study.

Another survey was conducted, polling heads of SBC agencies, editors, state executive secretaries, and results showed "there was no consensus regarding (1) the change of name and (2) the name which should be used if a change were made."

Meanwhile, still another survey was taken to validate the 70 Onward project, disclosing that 76½ percent of those involved in the 70 Onward project felt the name change study should continue, while only 45.7 percent of a larger group of pastors, laymen and women either agreed or mildly agreed that the study should continue. Only 38½ percent of the laymen and 35.7 percent of the women felt the study should be continued.

At the February, 1967 meeting of the Executive Committee, its public relations committee recommended 25 criteria by which to evaluate any proposed new name. Among the questions asked of each proposed name were:

Is it legally available? Is it distinctive? Is it short? Would it be confused with other Baptist organizations? Does it lend itself well to short form use? Would the initials be appropriate? Is its meaning clear? Is it geographically accurate? Would it be capable of world-wide use? Does it have favorable connotations? Is it easy to spell? etc.

When the matter was discussed before the Executive Committee this February, Chairman James L. Pleitz of Pensacola, Fla., commented that he had read all these criteria, and decided he ought to change his name. The committee roared with laughter, voted, and went on to the next item of business.

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\$27.6 Million Budget Proposed For '69 SBC

NASHVILLE (BP)--A recommended Cooperative Program missions budget of \$27.6 million was proposed here for 1969 by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The proposed budget, which must be approved by the SBC when it meets in Houston June 4-7, would be an increase of \$800,000 over the 1968 budget of \$26.8 million.

The budget will support the work of 20 Southern Baptist Convention agencies and organizations through the Cooperative Program contributions from Baptist churches.

Biggest allocations and the biggest increases would go to foreign missions and to the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The proposed budget calls for \$13.8 million for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, an increase of \$818,619 over their 1968 allocation; and \$5.1 million for the six SBC-owned seminaries, an increase of \$700,000 over the 1968 seminary support.

Home missions would get \$4.98 million, an increase of \$384,000 over the 1968 allocation.

It is the first time in many years that the six seminaries would get more than home missions, yet the seminaries would still get \$1 million less than they say they drastically need.

A comprehensive study of the needs of the seminaries was presented to the Executive Committee by the firm of Booze, Allen and Hamilton, which stated that the seminaries, on the basis of current enrollment, need a minimum of \$6.1 million to provide the same quality level theological education as other Protestant seminaries.

The professional study set forth a complicated formula for distributing the funds to the six seminaries, but flatly stated that the formula would not work if any less than the \$6.1 million were provided by the convention.

"In the unfortunate event that the convention cannot make available the total amount of the Cooperative Program funds called for by the formula, the Executive Committee should require each seminary to make a specific request for a direct allocation and justify this request on the basis of specific plans and programs and budget proposals," the study said.

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Projections by the Executive Committee staff, however, indicated that a maximum of \$27,670,000 would be available during 1969, and that on the basis of Cooperative Program gifts for January and part of February of 1968, the convention could be \$300,000 short of its budget in 1968.

Written into the capital needs section of the 1969 budget was \$309,461 in capital needs covered in the 1968 budget which, it is predicted, might not be reached. The 1969 proposal also includes an additional \$800,000 for capital needs, leaving \$26½ million in 1969 for operating funds for the 20 SBC agencies.

The 20 agencies requested a total of \$30.3 million for operating needs in 1969, but the Executive Committee was forced to trim these requests by \$3.2 million on the basis of the amount of funds anticipated for 1969.

Other SBC agencies and the amounts they would receive in the proposed 1969 budget are as follows:

Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, \$1½ million, an increase of \$165,000; Christian Life Commission, Nashville, \$170,000, up \$45,000; Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, \$260,000, an increase of \$25,000; Education Commission, Nashville, \$125,000, up \$15,000; Annuity Board, Dallas, \$125,000, a decrease of \$100,000;

Historical Commission, Nashville, \$102,000, up \$7,000; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, \$111,400, same allocation as 1968 with permission to use interest from \$300,000 invested in reserves for operating funds; American Seminary Commission, Nashville, \$95,000, up \$4,400; Stewardship Commission, Nashville, \$83,000, same as 1968;

Southern Baptist Foundation, Nashville, \$80,000, an increase of \$13,000; Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., \$36,000, same as 1968; and Convention Operating budget, \$200,000, same as 1968.

The allocations to the six SBC seminaries were adopted on the basis of individual requests from the seminaries since the total necessary for the formula was not approved. The allocations were:

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, \$1.38 million, up \$202,619; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, \$1.14 million, up \$182,771; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, \$875,000, up \$119,080; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., \$693,000, up \$79,797; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., \$525,000, up \$43,997; and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., \$475,000, up \$71,736.

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New Orleans Seminary
Slates Scholarship Drive

2/22/68

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Board of Development meeting here voted to launch a \$1½ million fund-raising campaign for student scholarships and other needs at the seminary.

Wallace E. Johnson, president of Holiday Inns, Inc., who is chairman of the seminary Board of Development, described the fund campaign as one of the most worthy efforts the board had attempted.

The decision to begin the 18-month campaign came after a feasibility report indicated that "the fund-raising atmosphere of New Orleans Seminary is good."

Johnson spoke to the seminary students and faculty at chapel during the meeting, saying "the greatest secret of my business success has been in setting goals. I know what I want and where I am going."

The Holiday Inns official who was named Lay Churchman of the Year in 1965 by Religious Heritage of America, Inc., challenged the student ministers to approach their work with enthusiasm and to watch for every opportunity to be of service.

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Final Wrapup**SBC Executive Committee
Recommends Budget, Name Poll**

NASHVILLE (BP)--After two days of hearing budget requests and work in subcommittees, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here quickly voted to recommend a proposed 1969 budget, a convention poll on a name change, and to conduct a detailed study of the convention's program of student work on college campuses.

In addition to the proposed 1969 Cooperative Program budget of \$27.6 million, an increase of \$800,000, the Executive Committee also voted to recommend a five-year capital needs budget for 1969-73 totalling \$5 million.

The recommendations will go to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, June 4-7, for consideration.

The convention will have an opportunity to express itself in an unofficial poll on changing the name of the 11-million member body. Three names will be presented---the United Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Results of the poll will be used by the Executive Committee in its further study.

Another recommendation to the convention will suggest Portland, Ore., as the meeting place for the 1973 convention, with proposed dates of June 12-15, 1973. The convention will also vote on changing the dates of the 1970 convention in Denver to June 2-5, one week earlier than presently scheduled.

The study of student work, and its placement as part of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be conducted by the program committee of the Executive Committee with the help of a findings committee composed of state secretaries, state student directors, SBC agencies, Executive Committee members, pastors and campus directors. Surveys and interviews by seminary professors plus a national consultation on the Baptist student would be a part of the study.

The Executive Committee also authorized its public relations committee to study the possibility of adding the word "missions" to the name of the Cooperative Program, and to study the feasibility of national advertising in major media of the nation.

Religion in American Life (RIAL) was commended by the Executive Committee and given a \$12,500 allocation from operating reserves, but a proposal to commend Wycliffe Bible Translators and observe Bible Translation Day was tabled "awaiting further information."

Executive Committee approval was granted the Baptist Sunday School Board for starting three new publications---a quarterly publication for deacons, a quarterly professional journal for pastors, church staff members and denominational leaders with a scholarly approach, and a monthly adult leisure-reading periodical.

The SBC Home Mission Board was authorized to stagger payment for purchase of the birthplace of Luther Rice, noted as the father of Baptist foreign missions. The site is a church in Northboro, Mass.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was given permission to conduct a \$1½ million anniversary campaign for endowments and campus needs with the understanding no church funds would be solicited, only individuals, corporations and foundations.

A committee study was requested on the possibility of setting up an inter-seminary housing corporation to seek savings on interest, longer long-term loans, gifts for housing, etc., on seminary housing projects.

A lengthy, detailed report was presented by a representative of Booze, Allen and Hamilton Consultants outlining financial needs of the six SBC seminaries and a formula for distributing the seminary funds. The report was referred to a subcommittee of the group's program committee for further study.

Several bylaw and constitution changes for the convention were proposed, or approved on second reading. All will go to the SBC for consideration.

A conflict-of-interest clause was recommended in the convention bylaws which would prevent any person from serving as a trustee or director of an SBC agency if he receives any direct or indirect funds or salary from the SBC agency. The version that goes to the convention is slightly different than the one offered by Paul Maxey of Missouri to the SBC last June which would have prohibited any employee of a SBC agency, a state convention or any of their institutions from serving on SBC boards of trustees.

Other bylaw changes would rotate terms of members of the denominational calendar committee, instruct the convention's credentials committee to assist in registration at the SBC, add representatives of the Brotherhood Commission and Sunday School Board to the Public Affairs Committee, and use the correct name of Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

A proposal to make the convention president's annual address to the Southern Baptist Convention a fixed item of business was submitted as a change in the convention procedure statement.

Editorial changes approved by the SBC last June in the convention's Constitution were approved on second reading for recommendation to the Houston Convention, and a proposed charter for the Christian Life Commission was approved.

Also approved on second reading was a constitution change that would increase the term of office for trustees and board members of SBC agencies from three years to four years, and charter changes were approved for the Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., and Stewardship Commission bringing their charters in line with the four-year terms.

The Executive Committee decided to take no action on setting up a rotation system for members of the SBC Committee on Boards, leaving instead provision for a new committee each year. It also decided to take no action providing for endorsement of pastoral counselors, leaving this matter to local churches.

A statement outlining a policy for the convention on camping programs was approved, and several minor changes were made in the program statements of Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

One of the program changes would add the words "to all people regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or ability to pay in such ways as to preserve human dignity and worth" to the program statement of the hospitals.

A plan for planning Southern Baptist emphases and themes during the period of 1974-1980 was adopted, calling for involvement of selected SBC, state, associational and local church workers in the process.

The Executive Committee also voted to hold an orientation conference during the summer for new members of the 58-member committee which meets twice-annually to conduct convention business between annual sessions.

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Portland Recommended Site For '73 Convention

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to recommend Portland, Ore., as the site for the 1973 convention session, and to move the dates of the 1970 convention in Denver up one week earlier.

Both recommendations will go to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, June 4-7, 1968, for consideration.

Proposed dates for the 1973 convention in Portland are June 12-15, 1973.

The recommended change in dates for the 1970 convention in Denver would move the convention one week earlier to June 2-5, 1970, rather than June 8-12 as recommended by the Executive Committee in September.

The change was necessary, said Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, because of the uncertainty of the availability of hotel rooms in Denver the second week in June, a heavy tourist season, and because the date is closer to the meeting time of the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo, July 12-18.

Portland, the site of the 1973 meeting, will offer a 13,000 seat auditorium built in 1960, and guarantee 5,000 hotel rooms, the administrative committee of the Executive Committee reported. The auditorium is three miles from the heart of the city, but shuttle busses will be provided, and city officials said the bus system handled a recent convention of 16,000.

Portland was selected by the committee over invitations from Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Chicago and Kansas City.

Convention sites had previously been selected by the convention for 1968, Houston; 1969, New Orleans; 1970, Denver; 1971, St. Louis; and 1972, Philadelphia.

SBC President Urges Baptists
To Communicate Faith, Concern

NASHVILLE (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention told the denomination's Executive Committee that Baptists need to communicate better their faith and concern for people.

H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville said here that unfortunately, Baptists have allowed themselves to be maneuvered into the position of appearing to be unconcerned about people, when really Baptists are a peoples' church.

"Reading the paper causes some to think that the ones who are doing the most for people are not even in the church, not even Christians, and in some instances not even believers in God," said the pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church.

"We need to enunciate more clearly our position and manifest clearly the spirit of Jesus Christ" in what we believe and do about people, he said. Baptists have the tradition, heritage, and theology of being concerned about people, he added.

Saying the biggest challenge Baptists face is the challenge of unbelief and communicating their faith, the SBC president warned that some people, especially youth, seem to be losing their faith because it was grounded in the wrong things to begin with.

"Real faith," he declared, "is not faith in the Bible, good as the Bible is, nor faith in our forefathers...nor faith in the church. It is faith in our Lord Jesus Christ himself."

He warned against leading youth to believe in "our way of life, our beliefs, our manners, and our customs. In later years," he observed, "they will come to see our faults and they will be disillusioned.

"If we lead our children to believe in the church and the church is exposed for its spots and wrinkles and blemishes, then later they will be disillusioned, they will have no faith, and they will get out of the church," he said.

Thus, he reasoned, the only faith that will stand the test is not faith in the church, but faith in Jesus Christ.

"Real commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ will stand the test of intellectual inquiry, scientific discovery, emotional upheavals, and every kind of trial," he declared.

Paschall added that Christians with this kind of faith may have trials, questions, problems and doubts, but faith in Christ is the faith that never fails.

Paschall told the Executive Committee he had tried to emphasize two things during his tenure as president of the 11-million member convention the past two years.

"I have been trying hard to bring extreme points of view in our convention to a respectable synthesis," he said. "It is very bad for us to go in opposite directions--- some to go in the direction of social action to the neglect of personal conversion, and some to go in the direction of personal conversion to the neglect of social action."

Paschall added that he had sought to sound a positive note. "It is important for us to recognize our sins and our need for repentance and renewal, but we must come out with a sure, positive, hopeful word or we have no future."

He said that the pastor who "gets a briar in his tongue and can say nothing except what is wrong with his people and his denomination" will ultimately fail in the ministry.

He concluded by urging Baptists to communicate better than they have, saying Christianity is the only really good news in the world.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Please substitute the following for the last paragraph of story headlined, Virginia Editor Honored For 30 Years Service, 2-2-68:

During its 140 years, the paper has had only seven editors. Alley purchased the paper in September, 1937, and organized a corporation to publish it. In 1950 the Baptist General Association of Virginia accepted The Religious Herald under a charter which brought the paper into relationship to the denomination without capital outlay by the General Association, according to Alley.

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