



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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May 19, 1969

**Illinois Convention Approves  
First Reading Of Constitution**

URBANA, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association, in a special called convention here, gave initial approval to a new constitution, but not until numerous amendments were made to the document submitted by a special constitution committee.

The new constitution, which includes a new name for the state Baptist body, will come up for final approval at the state association when it meets in regular session, Oct. 28-30 in Mt. Vernon, Ill.

New name proposed for the organization is the Illinois Baptist Convention, replacing the name Illinois Baptist State Association.

Among other changes, the constitution will simplify the organization of the state convention's Board of Directors into four major committees, instead of the present 11 committees. It will make possible grouping of the departments for correlation and efficiency.

Meeting at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church here, Host Pastor Don E. Dillow, chairman of the constitution committee which recommended the new constitution, presented the proposed constitution article by article, with time for discussion, questions, and amendments. Each article was adopted separately after any amendments approved.

In October, the constitution will be presented on second reading for adoption in its entirety. Amendments may be offered, but such amendments could not receive final adoption until one year later, since any changes must be considered by two successive conventions.

Included in the proposed constitution is a doctrinal statement which consists of the statement of Baptist Faith and Message, adopted by the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention. The previous constitution endorsed the New Hampshire Declaration of Faith as the convention's expression of faith.

An amendment approved by the convention recognized, however, that the doctrinal statement in the constitution represents only a statement of the majority, and not necessarily every church in the convention, or every individual.

Other amendments to the new constitution as submitted by the committee which received convention approval were:

--Deletion of the provision that no church shall elect more than 10 messengers to the state convention, but specifying that messengers must be resident members.

--A recognition that the Illinois Baptist is the official publication of the state convention.

--Provision that officers of the various committees of the Board of Directors to be ex-officio but non-voting members of all other committees.

--Deletion of two paragraphs regarding the employment and dismissal of the executive secretary, meaning that such procedures will be spelled out along with those of other employees by the Board of Directors in a policy manual.

--Setting membership of each of the four board committees at 18, rather than leaving some discretion in this matter to the board.

--Authorization for the administrative committee to act for the board between its sessions, except for disposal and/or mortgaging of property, unless authorized by the board;

--Stipulation that the board committees shall meet at least one month prior to board meetings, rather than exactly one month.

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Several other amendments were offered to the new constitution, but failed to pass.

A proposal was defeated which would have stricken from the doctrinal statement a sentence which reads: "The New Testament speaks also of the Church as a body of Christ which includes all the redeemed of all ages."

Also failing to pass was an amendment which would have required messengers to the annual state convention to represent churches which are cooperating with a district association.

Three other amendments were defeated. Generally, they would have provided that convention officers not be allowed to vote unless they are messengers, that the Baptist Children's Home have a separate board rather than operating under corporate officers who are members of the special ministries committee, and that each association assist in nomination of members of the Board of Directors.

The convention voted appreciation for the work of the constitution and restructure committees, and closed after Illinois Baptist State Association Executive Secretary James H. Smith said that Illinois Baptists now face a new era of working and moving together, rather than a fragmented approach.

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"Students, The Church, Today's  
Issues" Topic For SBC Dialogue

5/19/69

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A late Sunday night dinner and colloquy featuring a panel discussion on "Students, The Church, and Today's Issues" will precede the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference here on Sunday, June 8.

The dinner and colloquy will begin at 9:15 p.m., at the Royal Orleans Hotel, with admission by \$10 ticket, according to Harper Shannon, president of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference which is sponsoring the event.

Two students involved in an organization called Baptist Students Concerned will join a Southern Baptist seminary professor, a Baptist evangelist, and a missions worker with hippies in the Haight-Asbury district of San Francisco to make up the panel.

The students are Stuart Sprague, a senior at Duke University, Durham, N.C., and Tom Graves, of Vanderbilt University, Nashville. Both were participants in the group that demonstrated and held a dialogue session at the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, and both will be involved in a meeting of Baptist Students Concerned Monday and Tuesday, June 9-10, in New Orleans.

Others on the panel will be Kenneth L. Chafin, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; B. Gray Allison, evangelist from Louisiana and former evangelism staff member of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; and Ron Willis, SBC missionary and pastor in San Francisco.

Shannon said that the colloquy would discuss such things as the problem of campus rioting among students, the problems of war and peace, the population explosion including birth control, racism, drug addiction, the student's relations to the local church, etc.

Shannon added that admission to the colloquy would be by ticket only. Tickets are available, he said, from his office, P. O. Box 874, Dothan, Ala., 36301. Shannon is pastor of First Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala.

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Kentucky Board Voices  
Campus Turmoil Concern

5/19/69

BAGDAD, Ky. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention adopted a resolution from its Christian life committee expressing "grave concern for, and disapproval of, the many current tactics of certain activist groups particularly upon college and university campuses."

The resolution indicates that Kentucky Baptists are committed to social change and the basic rights of all men, but that such gains should be achieved through due process of law and peaceful means.

"We deplore the use of force, violence, fire arms and the destruction of property to achieve social ends," said the resolution.

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"We are appalled at lawlessness, the decline of patriotism, weakened law enforcement and the tolerance which many administrative and judicial bodies have had in penalizing law violaters," the resolution continued.

"We are alarmed at the activities of various extremist and campus groups, some of which openly advocate the violent overthrow of government, and which have been tolerated by some government officials and college administrators," said the resolution.

The statement added that "though we are committed to constructive change in social and political life, we are also committed to decency, order and due process of law in effecting such change."

The resolution concluded by encouraging and commending youth and adults "who seek to effect needed constructive changes in accordance with democratic processes, with proper respect for person and property."

Harold G. Snaders, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said that Kentucky Baptists are working for social betterment and interracial cooperation, "but we do not condone violence and anarchy to realize our hopes."

The resolution was adopted by the board during a regular meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly near Bagdad, Ky. W. Yancey Sanders, Baptist pastor in Frankfort, Ky., and chairman of the Christian life committee, presented the resolution.



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