



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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November 14, 1969

Louisiana Convention Votes  
Sever Ties With Hospital

BATON ROUGE (BP)--The Louisiana Baptist Convention, after heated debate, voted 257 to 160 to release the Baton Rouge General Hospital to become a separate interdenominational institution independent of Baptist ownership and control.

The majority of the messengers seemed to feel that the hospital could better serve the area if monies not available under Baptist restrictions concerning separation of church and state could be accepted by the hospital under new ownership.

The action brings to an end Baptist operation of the hospital for the past 29 years. The convention took over the hospital in 1940 when it was a small, 50-bed institution struggling for survival. It was originally owned by the city of Baton Rouge,

Under Baptist operation, the hospital has grown to a 400-bed institution with a replacement value of \$18 million.

During the debate, arguments expressed in favor of continuing Baptist ownership of the hospital included: opposition to "giving away" an \$18 million institution; belief that the hospital would eventually lose its religious significance thus wasting past Baptist investments; and opinions that the convention messengers should have more time to study such an important issue.

Arguments given in favor of severing ties with the hospital included the view that the institution would be better able to serve the community if federal funds were available; that Baptists were once again being asked to help the hospital (previously by taking it over, now by freeing it), and they should respond; and finally, that release of the hospital would free it to seek federal aid and other funds not available under Baptist policies.

Claude Kirkpatrick, administrator of the hospital, expressed appreciation for the support and stability Baptists had given the hospital, and said that the new board of trustees would be comprised of Christians of all faiths and Jews, all believers in God.

In other actions, the convention adopted a record \$3.8 million budget and approved a resolution endorsing President Richard M. Nixon's policy on the Vietnam War.

The convention suspended its rules automatically referring all resolutions to the resolutions committee in order to adopt the Vietnam resolution and send a telegram to President Nixon on Veteran's Day.

The 1970 budget, an increase of \$42,220 over last year's budget, will channel 31.4 per cent or \$1.1 million to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

A major feature of the convention program was emphasis on the 1970 Korean Baptist evangelistic crusade which Louisiana Baptists will help to sponsor in 20 major cities in Korea July 5-10, 1970.

Chang U. Noh, director of the crusade in Korea, spoke to the convention, as did Leonard Sanderson, the convention's evangelism director and Robert Lee, executive secretary, who are helping to enlist Louisiana Baptist pastors, laymen and music directors to go to Korea for the crusade.

Leon Hyatt, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Houma, La., was elected new president of the convention.

Next year the convention will meet in Shreveport, Nov. 10-12.

California Baptists Vote  
Alien Immersion Study

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (BP)--The Southern Baptist General Convention of California considered three motions dealing with the question of alien immersion and open communion, and rejected by a margin of only two votes a recommendation that it sell one of its assemblies.

The convention authorized a broadly-representative committee to study the question of alien immersion and open communion and bring to the convention a more precise definition of the terms, and the requirements for convention membership since the interpretation of the convention's constitution has been disputed.

Two amendments to the constitution were offered which, if adopted next year, would remove from the constitution prohibition of seating messengers from churches that practice alien immersion and open communion.

No action was taken on the amendments, however, since convention procedure requires that constitutional changes be introduced one year and discussed and voted on the following year.

The current constitution includes a section on membership which states that "messengers shall not be seated in this convention from any church that receives persons with alien immersion or practices what is commonly called open communion."

The alien immersion question first came up when the report of the convention's credentials committee to seat all messengers was challenged by some who questioned seating of messengers from International Baptist Church, Carson, Calif.

The International church has indicated it will accept as members persons who have been immersed by other denominations, but has not yet accepted any such members. The convention seated the International Church's messengers since no such members have yet been received by the church.

Earlier this year, messengers from the church to the Long Beach Harbor Baptist Association were denied seats at the associational meeting because of the church's policy. One of the messengers, Pastor C. Robert Tucker, was then the association's moderator.

Though the messengers voted to seat messengers from the church, the actions by the convention in effect delayed until next year the major decision on the question.

In other major action, the convention rejected by a vote of 258 to 256 a recommendation growing out of a three-year study that the convention assembly site at Jenness Park near Sonora, be sold.

Instead, the convention proposed to offer the site to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for possible development of another national assembly in the western United States. The Sunday School Board has an eastern assembly at Ridgecrest, N.C., and a western assembly at Glorieta, N.M.

The substitute to offer the site to the Sunday School Board was passed even though the Executive Board of the convention had received verbal assurance from Sunday School Board officials that it would not be possible for them to develop another western assembly site in the foreseeable future.

Included in the motion was a provision that if the Sunday School Board does not accept the Jenness Park site, it will be retained by the convention for development; but no action was taken relative to plans for sources of money for such development.

The convention also voted to send a statement to President Richard M. Nixon assuring him of their prayerful support of his efforts to secure peace in Vietnam, and his plans to withdraw troops "as quickly as they can be withdrawn to insure that peace."

A resolution was adopted expressing support of Howard Day, president of the State Board of Education, and others who are seeking to include the Genesis account of creation in public school text books as an alternative to the theory of evolution.

Another resolution supported the Alcoholism Care and Control Act of 1969, and commended Gov. Ronald Reagan and other state education leaders in their stand against teaching of Communism in public schools.

A record budget adopted by the convention was set at \$2.6 million, including a \$40,000 increase in Cooperative Program world missions contributions. The Cooperative Program goal is \$1.3 million, allocating 26 per cent to world missions.

Levi Price, pastor of Narbonne Avenue Baptist Church, Lomita, Calif., was elected new president of the convention. The convention will meet next year Nov. 10-12 in Riverside, Calif.

Tennessee Convention Adopts  
\$5.6 Million Budget

NASHVILLE (BP)--Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$5,675,000 for 1970 during the annual convention meeting, Nov. 11-14 at Woodmont Baptist Church here.

One-third of the budget will be distributed through the Southern Baptist Convention. Two-thirds of the budget will be distributed through the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Jerry L. Glisson, pastor, Leawood Baptist Church, Memphis, was elected president.

The convention adopted a resolution stating "that we remember that interpretation of the Bible may vary with individual Baptists and it is the responsibility of each one to seek the Holy Spirit's leadership and guidance into its teachings."

The 1970 convention will convene, Nov. 10-12, at the West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

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Kansas Approves Program  
To Meet Financial Crisis

11/14/69

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists overwhelmingly approved plans projected by its management board in an effort to overcome a financial crisis, giving the management board a standing ovation when the plan was presented.

A positive spirit prevailed throughout the convention, and the messengers were confident that the convention was on the way to solving its problems, said Robert Hobson, acting editor of the Baptist Digest and member of the management board. "The spirit was just tremendous," he said.

Sen. Lester Arvin, a Wichita attorney and state legislator who is chairman of the management board, traced the history of the \$1.6 million indebtedness that left the convention's Church Loan Association insolvent, and then outlined a three-point plan for overcoming the \$1.6 million indebtedness.

The plan called for scaling down slightly the convention's state missions program, looking to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for greater direct contribution and a complete restructuring of the staff for the state convention.

The restructure plan calls for combining the missions, brotherhood and evangelism departments, continuing a director of religious education and Woman's Missionary Union department director, and combining the functions of the executive secretary and the director of the Church Loan Association.

Second major phase of the plan is a \$500,000 fund campaign among Kansas and Nebraska Baptist churches, led by the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, with hopes of raising the \$500,000 by Jan. 26, 1970.

Third phase involves anticipated assistance from other Baptist state conventions within the Southern Baptist Convention, provided the Kansas Convention is able to raise the \$500,000 in its own campaign. It was not reported which state conventions would be assisting the Kansas Convention with funds.

Earl Harding, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention and chairman of a committee appointed by the Baptist State Executive Secretaries' Association to try to help the Kansas convention, spoke to the meeting, saying that the other state conventions hope to raise about \$500,000 in the effort.

A plan for state convention assistance to Kansas Baptists will be outlined at a meeting of the state secretaries in Nashville on Dec. 8, Harding said.

The management board's report took more than one hour to present, and when it was over, the messengers gave a five-minute standing ovation to Sen. Arvin and the entire committee.

In other major action, the convention adopted a budget of \$575,612, with a state Cooperative Program goal of \$330,500. Biggest allocation in the budget will go to the Church Loan Association, with \$1,500 per week going into the sinking fund for the bond program.

Earlier this year, the convention's Executive Board had voted to put \$3,000 a week into the sinking fund, but the management board recommended that the amount be set at \$1,500 per week, since an additional \$1 million is expected from the fund campaign and state convention assistance.

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The budget allocates 17 per cent of the total of the SBC Cooperative Program, though it was pointed out that the \$1,500 per week for the sinking fund is a preferred item and must be paid before all other items. Amount anticipated for SBC causes is \$29,750.

Unanimously elected as president of the convention was W. E. Thorn, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Wichita.

Resolutions adopted by the convention supported the U. S. policy in Vietnam, and efforts to bring about "an honorable and just end to the hostilities in Vietnam," expressed appreciation for NASA's permitting the astronauts to express their personal religious faith, and opposed liquor by the drink legislation proposed in Kansas this year.

Other resolutions expressed appreciation to Kansas Securities Commissioner Michael Quinn "for his patience and helpful direction" in the convention's financial crisis, to the management board, to the SBC Home Mission Board, and other SBC agencies for their assistance, and to the Baptist Press and other news media for their "fair coverage" of the financial crisis.

Next year the convention will meet for its 25th anniversary session, Nov. 9-11, at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Wichita.

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Virginia Baptists Adopt Vast  
Restructure, Defeat Two Items

11/14/69

ROANOKE, Va. (BP)--The Baptist General Association of Virginia, after nearly 14 hours of sometimes heated debate, adopted the report of its Committee of Twenty-four, but only after defeating two major sections, including the most controversial one on relationships and support of its seven educational institutions.

The Committee of Twenty-four, charged with studying the overall structure and work of the association, had recommended that financial support of the Baptist schools be reduced, that the capital needs section of the budget supporting the schools be ended by 1971, and that financial aid to the schools support specific Christian ministries, such as Bible and religion classes, chaplains, student religious organization, etc.

A substitute motion, offered by Frank Schwall of College Avenue Baptist Church in Bluefield, Va., was adopted instead of the Committee of Twenty-four's recommendations, a 51 vote margin--437 to 386.

The substitute called for keeping the percentage of support for the seven schools at the same level rather than reducing it each year until 1973, for eliminating the capital needs allocations to the schools by 1973 instead of 1971, and for "keeping the present relationship between the General Association and our seven schools."

Each schools was also asked to "evaluate its contributions to the denomination and to seek to minister more effectively to the denominations needs."

In the debate over the education section, Charles L. Harman, president of Bluefield (Junior) College in Bluefield, Va., told the convention that if the committee's report were adopted, Bluefield College would have to close its doors.

Opposition to the education recommendations from the committee was led by Joseph H. Cosby, president of Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Va., and by Reuben Alley, editor of the Religious Herald, who had earlier editorially opposed the report, saying "Severance of vital ties between these institutions and the denomination as the committee proposes would be disastrous, not only for the schools, but for the Baptist General Association.

During the convention, Alley announced his retirement as editor of the Religious Herald, a post he has held for nearly 32 years, effective May 31, 1970.

Despite strong opposition to some sections of the Committee of Twenty-four's report, the chairman of the committee, Ernest L. Honts, pastor of Talbot Park Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., was elected president of the convention.

The convention approved seven of the nine sections of the committee report, deleting both the section on education and another recommendation setting up a procedure for enrollment of messengers at the annual convention, and requiring that all messengers must come from churches that contribute to the Cooperative Program.

The committee recommended in part that two present committees be discontinued, that the staff of the General Board be restructured, that the system of representation on the General Board be changed, that the Woman's Missionary Union be program be financed through budget requests just as all other convention-related organizations, that Cooperative Program support be increased by the churches, and that agencies and institutions enact admissions and/or employment policies to consider any qualified applicant regardless of race.

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In the staff restructuring, three new divisions--the division of ministries, division of services, and division of church programs--were set up to coordinate the work of the association's departments, rather than the present structure of eight departments in direct relationship with the convention's executive secretary.

During the last session of the convention, a motion was adopted asking the General Board to prepare and adopt a statement of ideals for the seven schools, and that the association respond most generously in budget allocations to those schools that make the most earnest effort to be Baptist, Christian, and to offer quality education.

Another last-minute motion adopted by the association called for the General Board to explore the possibility of union with other Baptist bodies of like views and outlook, and to report back to the 1970 meeting on this matter.

A strongly-worded report from the association's Christian Life Committee on the generation gap, poverty, legislation on beverage alcohol, and Black Power was adopted without dissent.

The committee recommended that the association, its staff, its institutions, its churches, and individual Christians "declare themselves to be greatly concerned regarding their historic and continuing identification with a white, segregated society which has tended to dehumanize black men...and that they seek to call into their fellowship and offer their services to all men irrespective of race...."

The committee further recommended that Baptists in the state evaluate employment practices and consider employment of black professionals, administrators, clerical workers and other skilled and unskilled workers.

Another committee on churches and urban centers called on Virginia Baptists to "consider the opportunity of calling competent Negroes to serve Virginia Baptists in responsible leadership positions."

The association's religious liberty committee report was amended to request the General Board to study what church or religious property should or should not be taxed.

Another committee, the family education and counseling committee, encourage "responsible sex education in public schools."

Next year the convention will meet at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Nov. 10-12.

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Arizona Baptists Vote  
To Sale Hospitals

11/14/69

TEMPE, Ariz. (BP)--The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention voted itself out of the hospital business during its state convention meeting at the Southside Baptist Church here.

The vote was 133-125, a majority of only eight votes, for selling the Baptist hospitals at Phoenix, Scottsdale, and Yuma, and for selling land owned by the convention in Tucson, which was to be used for a Baptist hospital site.

Thus the convention is now in the process of negotiating sale of these institutions.

In effect, the decision rescinds an earlier action taken during a special called session of the convention in September when messengers voted 422-208 to keep the hospitals instead of selling them.

Debate on the issue raged for two days, and after the 133 to 125 vote, a motion was made the following day to rescind the action of the previous day to sale the hospitals. The proposal to rescind the action failed, however, by a vote of 145-125, a margin of 20 votes compared to the previous eight-vote margin. It would have required a two-thirds majority to reverse the previous action.

The equity of the Phoenix Baptist Hospital alone has been appraised at \$1.5 million. Equity means the amount of worth of the hospital increased over what the convention paid for it seven years ago.

The Scottsdale Hospital equity is endowed by the convention and is estimated to be worth \$2.5 million. The Yuma hospital is a leased hospital and operating supplies are valued at a half million dollars.

Phoenix layman James Carter proposed that "upon sale of any of the hospitals within the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention that the Executive Board and executive secretary be directed to deliver to Grand Canyon College 40 per cent of any and all monies received from the sale of the hospitals.

This motion passed overwhelmingly by voice vote.

Harley Hunt, business manager and minister of education, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, supported the motion saying "we need to direct our attention and efforts to church-related ministries by diversting ourselves from interest in the hospitals and by putting our peoples' work in first winning the lost and helping them grow in knowledge, obedience, and service to our Lord."

J. E. Marler was re-elected president of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. Marler is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Globe, Ariz.

The convention adopted a budget of \$407,000 for 1970.

The 1970 convention will meet at the First Southern Baptist Church, Yuma, Nov. 10-12.

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Mississippi Baptists Commend  
Civil Rights Act Compliance

11/14/69

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention commended the action of trustees for Baptist institutions in the state in signing the Federal Assurance of Compliance to the Civil Rights Act for the purpose of "securing aid for individuals."

At the same time, however, the convention declined to instruct the trustees of its institutions in any matter of policy, but urged the trustees "not to accept federal aid for the institutions themselves."

The convention approved a substitute motion for a resolution regarding the action of Mississippi College. In signing the Compliance, the convention voted to "commend the trustees of the institution in their attempt to help individuals in their respective institutions."

But trustees were "urged to refrain from accepting federal government aid for the institutions themselves."

All four convention-owned colleges and the Mississippi Baptist Hospital have signed the Civil Rights Compliance.

The convention adopted a record Cooperative Program budget for 1970 of \$4,250,000, an increase of \$50,000 over the current year's outlay. The new budget allocates \$2,965,000 to state missions or state causes compared to \$2,304,000.

The convention adopted a far-reaching recommendation from the Convention Board that a committee of seven be appointed to "redefine the overall educational purpose of the convention."

Resolutions included that "on this Veterans Day, 1969, special prayers be offered to the end that an honorable and just peace for all peoples be obtained and that the young men who comprise our armed forces to given our sincere support in the quest for a just and honorable peace."

One resolution put the convention on record as opposing the existence of a nudist colony in Marshall County, Miss. After the action was taken, Mississippi Baptist leaders learned that the nudist colony had reportedly been abandoned.

Another resolution declared "that we share the sentiment expressed by W. A. Criswell concerning the articles of faith adopted in 1925 and 1963 by the SBC and that we commend his courage in his statement "this is what it is to be a Baptist and if you don't believe that you are not a Baptist.""

The convention also adopted a statement of gratitude to God, to various governmental officials and to all other persons and organizations for a quick response after Hurricane Camille struck south Mississippi with devastating fury.

A recommendation was adopted that a committee of five be appointed to study the matter of the future location of state assemblies and that the committee bring recommendations to the 1970 convention.

The convention adopted a report of its Christian Action Commission revealing action in areas of alcoholism, drug abuse, pornography, gambling, church-state separation, and property rights.

The convention re-elected John G. McCall, pastor, First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, to a second term as president. The 1970 convention will meet Nov. 10-12 at the First Baptist Church, Vicksburg.

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Florida Keeps Stetson  
In Budget By Five Votes

MIAMI (BP)--In a stormy session, the Florida Baptist Convention debated for nearly three hours whether to keep Stetson University's \$310,000 allocation in its 1970 budget, and finally approved the allocation by only five votes.

In another major action, the convention voted to appoint two committees to study the convention's relationship with Stetson and another Baptist school operated by the Palm-Lake Baptist Association, the Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla.

The budget allocation to Stetson was challenged with a motion by Don Manuel of Allapattah Baptist Church in Miami, asking that the \$310,000 to Stetson be deleted from the proposed 1970 budget.

After nearly three hours debate, Manuel's motion was defeated by a slim 382-377 vote.

The recommended budget of \$4.1 million was finally approved with the Stetson allocation intact. The budget, a \$200,000 increase over the 1969 budget, provides 54 per cent to state causes, and 46 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

The motion asking for committee studies of relationships with the two Baptist schools recommended that representatives of the two schools be included on the two committees.

The committee studying relationships with Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. was asked to recommend next year whether or not to end the present relationship, or to adopt a new plan of relationship, or to reaffirm the present relationship.

Stetson currently has a self-perpetuating board of trustees, with the convention nominating three members and the Stetson board nominating three members to comprise a committee to fill vacancies on the board. Technically, the school is a private, but Baptist related, institution.

The committee studying relationships with Palm Beach Atlantic College will present a recommendation in 1970 whether to begin relationship with the association-owned college or not.

During the convention, a move was made by supporters of the Palm Beach Atlantic College to temporarily suspend the convention's business and financial plan in order to ask the convention for \$150,000 in support from the Cooperative Program for the school, which is financially troubled with a greater enrollment and higher costs than anticipated.

After extended debate, the convention turned down attempts to suspend the rules, but adopted a substitute motion asking the State Missions Board to authorize a special offering in Baptist churches in the state to meet the college's financial needs.

A strongly-worded resolution condemning theological liberalism was adopted by the convention, charging that Southern Baptist educational institutions have been infiltrated by liberals and modernists.

The convention resolved that "we go on record as supporting the doctrinal statements of the 'Baptist Faith and Message' adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., in 1963."

The convention further urged the six Southern Baptist theological seminaries "to reject any and all liberalism and modernism found in their personnel and/or curriculum, and to become in reality strong, Bible-centered, Bible-teaching institutions, establishing their standards in the Bible..."

Elected new president of the convention was A. Douglas Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla. The 1970 convention will meet Nov. 10-12 in Gainesville, Fla.



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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