

May 26, 1950

DR. PRUDEN ELECTED PRESIDENT  
NORTHERN (AMERICAN) CONVENTION

BOSTON, Mass., May 26—(BP)—Dr. Edward H. Pruden, Washington, D. C., is the new president of the Northern (American) Baptist Convention. In seconding his nomination Dr. Maurice Trimmer of West Virginia said, "He is a Christian who feels that it is possible to cooperate with world Christianity without repudiating his Baptist convictions." The new president was enthusiastically received. He said that while his interests extended beyond the Northern Baptist Convention he was certainly in accord with the fellowship and purposes of the Convention.

Dr. Reuben E. Nelson, New York City, was elected to the new office of the General Council. He will serve as "representative of Northern (American) Baptists to personify them to the world." In his acceptance speech he said, "Northern (American) Baptists are going through the maturing processes that are difficult for all of us. We have a great faith in Baptist democracy. Somehow the Holy Spirit will lead us to the things He wants us to do. We look forward to our work in the General Council where we are one in Jesus Christ our Lord. Mrs. Nelson and I dedicate ourselves anew to the kingdom of Christ our Lord."

Attendance at the Northern (American) Baptist Convention reached an all-time high with a total of 11,820, of which 3,625 were delegates and the rest visitors. The Convention will meet in Buffalo in 1951 and in Chicago in 1952.

May 26, 1950

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

NORTHERN (AMERICAN) BAPTISTS REMOVE  
TIMETABLE FOR VOTING DISCIPLE MERGER

BOSTON, Mass., May 25--(BP)--The 43rd annual Northern (American) Baptist Convention today passed a resolution abandoning the 1954 date which had been set for a vote on a merger between their 1,500,000 members and the 1,700,000 Disciples of Christ. The vote, however, did not "represent a retreat" according to Dr. Hillyer Straton, chairman of the committee making the recommendation. The vote of the Convention merely recognized the good relations of the two groups could be improved by removing the timetable. The action did not change plans for a joint conference to be conducted at Green Lake, Wis., and for simultaneous conventions at Chicago in 1952.

The evangelistic note was continued through the second day of the convention. Congressman Walter H. Judd, a former missionary to Burma, said in an address, "It is not enough to bring converts and workers into the church. We must send them into all the world with the fanaticism and faith of early Christians to transform the world and the hearts of men."

C. Pitt Beers, home mission secretary for the Convention, said, "Northern Baptists are building churches. In the past ten years we have founded a new church every week. If we founded five times that many churches, we would not have done our share in churching America. We have 57 Christian centers across the country. There should be 50 new ones started in the next five years. Our appeal is to the 1,500,000 Northern (American) Baptists that their young people become hands and feet for our Christ."

New budget set to be raised by the churches is \$5,721,000. The Council on Finance and Promotion made a strong plea that the churches keep up with their pledges and that the states abandon the practice of withholding. The convention called for a restudy of the budget with the view of providing in the future better support for the Baptist World Alliance, the Federal Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches. The budget apportionments of these agencies are at present cared for with designations. The plan is not proving satisfactory. The proposed change will make them regular items in the budget. A resolution introduced by a Maine pastor to restudy the budget with the view of caring for the needs

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## 2...Northern Baptists

of the state "through withholding" was defeated two to one. In the next action the convention instructed the schools and churches in the vicinity of the schools to work together to provide better support for the schools. The measure was regarded by some as in conflict with the determination of the Convention to "stop withholding."

The Green Lake Assembly Board was invited to study its organization in an effort to find some way to form an organic tie with the Convention. The move is in keeping with a general trend of the Northern (American) Convention to draw their institutions more into the Convention.

Poor support of Northern (American) Baptist seminaries was deplored in an address by Dr. Luther Wesley Smith of the American Baptist Publishing Society. He said that Southern Baptists put into each of their three seminaries in one year more than Northern (American) Baptists put into one of theirs in ten years. He also cited the establishment of the new Golden Gate Seminary on the west coast, pointing out that Southern Baptists would put five times as much into that seminary the first year as Northern (American) Baptists had put into their west coast seminary in any one year. In commenting on the seminary situation, an Andover-Newton trustee said as he left the building, "No wonder Southern Baptist ministers are loyal to their convention and Northern Baptists are not."

One of the main features of the 1951 Northern (American) calendar will be a convention-wide Bible conference to be held at Green Lake to be followed by regional conferences. Two reasons were offered for the conferences: (1) rising interest in the Bible among laymen, and (2) need of a restudy of the essential Christian doctrines and the Baptist witness by the ministry. The resolution came as the final and "most important" recommendation of the Commission on Review.

In the last business session today Dr. E. H. Pruden, Washington, was nominated as president, and Dr. Reuben E. Nelson, New York City, nominated as the new general secretary. Elections will be held Friday. Nominations, however, are seldom challenged.