

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
466 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director**BUREAUS**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse G. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

October 28, 1970

N. Y. Baptists Push Moral,
Social, Mission Actions

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (BP)--Celebrating the first anniversary of organized work in the populous Empire State, New York Baptists agreed to expand activities in the next year and voted to create a Christian Life Committee to keep the state convention apprised of current moral and social issues.

Messengers to the second annual session adopted resolutions calling for a new Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, committing itself to drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation, and imploring the government to "do nothing to prohibit or encourage the church."

In an unexpected election, Dunkirk, N.Y., pastor Gene Fant was chosen as new president. He succeeds Kenneth Lyle, superintendent of metropolitan missions in New York City, who declined nomination for a second term, traditional in most state conventions, citing a desire that "New York Baptists will set no such precedent by presenting me for re-election."

Agreeing that its next major step should be selection of a convention missions director, the state body authorized budget provisions for such a leader. It is expected that an appointment will be made in January.

The one-year-old convention adopted a \$510,000 mission budget which contains numerous joint agreements with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Metropolitan New York City Baptist Association.

The budget calls for an 18 per cent total increase in Cooperative Program and other mission giving through the state convention. Messengers paid special tribute to veteran New York Baptist leader Paul S. James of Syracuse for his leadership as executive secretary-treasurer.

In an address to the convention, James praised the labors of New York Baptists in organizing the convention, which now consists of 105 churches, and for their efforts in evangelism resulting in 820 baptisms (conversions) in the last 10 months since becoming a state convention.

Another feature of the convention was the introduction and presentation of 21 pastors and church staff members who have joined the state body since it was formed last October. Since then, six new churches and 12 new chapels have been organized.

Territory of the convention includes New York state, southwest Connecticut, and northern New Jersey. State convention offices are located in Syracuse.

Next year, the convention will meet in Madison, N.J., and in 1972 sessions will be held in Albany, N.Y.

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Gill Named Endowment, Capital
Giving Head by SBC Commission

10/28/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Ben G. Gill, consultant in endowment and capital giving service for the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission, has been promoted to director of endowment and capital giving service for the commission.

Gill was elected to the post by the executive committee of the commission, according to an announcement by Merrill D. Moore, executive director of the SBC Stewardship Commission.

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He assumes the position effective Nov. 1, and succeeds the late William H. Pitt Sr., who di s of a heart attack last September while driving home after leading a fund campaign at a church in Louisiana.

Gill will be responsible for coordinating the commission's work in foundation promotion, institutional development, capital and fund campaigns for local churches and institutions that request the commission's aid.

A native of Arkansas, Gill was pastor of First Baptist Church, LaGrange, Tex., before joining the Stewardship Commission staff in 1969. He was a part-time consultant in church building fund raising for the Stewardship Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for several years while serving as pastor in Texas.

Gill is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.



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