



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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NOVEMBER 3, 1970

Texas Convention Requests School To Give Back Hurrican Damage Loan

AUSTIN (BP)--Texas Baptists attending the 85th annual Baptist General Convention of Texas calmly set up machinery to extract a Baptist school from a \$500,000 federal loan, and voted to divest Baylor University College of Dentistry in Dallas from convention control.

The 2,600 messengers also approved a record budget, elected officers and unanimously voted to change the 1971 Convention site from Amarillo to Houston where a proposed historic joint meeting is slated for all white, black and Mexican-American Baptist conventions in Texas.

If each of the other six conventions involved, representing more than 3 million Baptists, approve the plan, each group would hold its annual meeting separately and come together for one night for a mass evangelism rally in the Astrodome. It would be the first meeting of its kind in Texas history.

After a low-key debate, the messengers voted to appoint a committee to help the University of Corpus Christi work out problems surrounding damage suffered by Hurricane Celia which devastated the school just 30 days prior to its opening date in September.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the school accepted a \$500,000 small business administration loan, which, according to President Kenneth A. Maroney, actually amounts to a line of credit.

While expressing sympathy and concern for the school's situation, the convention reminded school officials that acceptance of the loan violates convention policy and instructed that money be borrowed from some agency other than the federal government to repay the loan.

The school must file a progress report with the convention's Executive Board before the 1971 convention.

The convention adopted a record \$14,750,000 budget--plus another \$500,000 to form a "challenge budget" should excess funds be available from Cooperative Program gifts through the churches.

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, was re-elected to a second one-year term as convention president.

Four elected convention officers and leaders exchanged views with a delegation of about 40 students from colleges across the state during a specially-scheduled dialogue session during the convention.

Students from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, originally requested the session but representatives came from four other colleges to participate as well. Fielding questions were Allen, First Vice President Ralph Smith of Austin, Second Vice President Rudy Sanchez of Dallas, and Executive Board Chairman James Harris of Fort Worth.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced during an address to the Texas Baptist Men's auxiliary convention that his church is establishing a Criswell Bible Institute in Dallas which he said would operate on a non-graduate level and not compete with seminaries.

During a press conference, Criswell said First Baptist Church has received a Negro man as a member the previous week.

William M. Pinson Jr., associate professor of Christian Ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, joined a battery of other speakers in proclaiming the need for Christians to penetrate the urban and metropolitan areas of the state and nation.

Pinson suggested a unique approach--establishment of a Southern Baptist Convention-wide urban training and research center in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Pinson, who has spent a year of sabbatical leave studying metropolitan areas across the United States, said survival requires a total ministry which would intelligently deal with the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs of all types of people from every area of life.

Other speakers emphasizing urgency of a thrust into metropolis, included Allen; Kenneth Chafin, director of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; David Wilkerson, executive director of Teen Challenge, Newport, Calif.; Carl Bates, of Charlotte, N. C., president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Bob Tremaine, pastor-director of the Greater Worcester (Mass.) Baptist Chapel; Jorge Larabraud, director of the Hispanic-American Institute, Austin; and I. A. Patterson, Texas Baptist Executive Secretary.

Two prominent Baptist political figures--former Postmaster General Marvin Watson and U.S. Senator Ralph Yarborough--joined the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission in positioning themselves against liquor-by-the-drink at the convention. Texans were to vote on local option Nov. 3.

Watson appeared on the program and Yarborough called for temperance and sobriety in a letter and telegram to Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission Secretary James M. Dunn.

The convention adopted a number of resolutions covering a wide range of political and social issues.

One resolution called for Texas Baptists to work to "make our laws dealing with marijuana users more realistic by giving our courts discretion to deal with each case on its own merits." It further urged "elimination of hypocrisy in liquor and drug law enforcement..."

Other resolutions urged Texas Baptists to oppose efforts to obtain tax money for supporting parochial schools, called for peace in Indo-China and the immediate release of prisoners of war being held by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese; and pointed to the need for more women, blacks, youth and Mexican-Americans on Texas Baptist policy-making bodies.

Honored during the convention were R. A. Springer, retiring as Texas Baptist treasurer after 32 years, and V. F. (Pete) Forderhase, retiring after 17 years as Texas Baptist music secretary.

The Christian Life Commission report commended the 1969 Southern Baptist Convention for its resolution requesting the publication and distribution of family life and sex education materials, called attention to such materials produced by both the SBC Christian Life Commission and the Sunday School Board and urged parents and churches to center their teachings about sex in biblical truth.

Other Commission statements called for "reasonable" abortion reforms, respect for authority, opposition to use of public funds in non-public schools, control of pollution, pornography and drug abuse, and open-door racial policy by churches and support by Baptists of family life, citizenship and family planning.

Urban Research-Training Center
Proposed In Dallas-Fort Worth

AUSTIN (BP)--A call for an urban training center to prepare Baptists to minister in the exploding metropolis was sounded by a seminary professor during the annual Texas Baptist Convention here.

William M. Pinson Jr., associate professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, proposed that the first such training and research center be established in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and that it be sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Southwestern Seminary and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"The Dallas-Fort Worth area is the ideal place to locate a major church urban training center, said Pinson, "because, with over 2½ million people it is the largest metropolitan center in the fourth most populated state."

The area's growth rate is expected to be more than 50 per cent in the next decade, highest in the state.

Also, said Pinson, Dallas contains headquarters of the Texas state convention, the largest Baptist state convention in America. In Fort Worth, he said, are two major Southern Baptist institutions directly related to urban ministry, the SBC Radio and Television Commission and the Southwestern Seminary.

"No Baptist state convention has such an extensive, continuing urban program" as Texas, said Pinson.

The seminary professor called for more emphasis on the local church in the "exploding metropolis."

"In the major metropolitan areas of Texas, unless 200 new Baptist churches are started within the next five years, we will fall irresponsibly behind our opportunities."

Survival requires a total ministry, Pinson said. Included must be the physical, mental, and emotional needs of all types of people and every aspect of life: family, daily work, politics, religion, and interpersonal relations.

Pinson said the Baptist genius for developing creative, innovative, and effective approaches to Christian ministry is still alive.

As evidence, he cited churches meeting in apartments, mobile homes and houses, new forms of informal worship and education, buildings that can easily be adjusted to changing conditions, churches formed around issues and needs, specialized and week-day ministries and organizations in which one church exists in several locations to meet the diverse needs of a city.

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White, Black, Latin Baptists
Plan Joint Texas Convention

11/3/70

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Texas meeting here voted to change the date and place of its 1971 convention in order to participate in a joint meeting in Houston with six other Texas Baptist groups.

Four of the Baptist bodies are predominately black, and one is Mexican-American in ethnic make-up.

The idea was proposed by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex.

Allen said that if the plan is approved by all other groups involved, the Oct. 25-29 meeting in Houston next year will be the first time in history that so many ethnic groups have met together for a joint Baptist meeting.

So far, the joint meeting plan has been approved by the Missionary Baptist General Convention (Negro), the American Baptist Convention churches of Texas, (predominately black), the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas, and the Southern Baptists of Texas.

Yet to approve the plan in meetings scheduled later this year and early in 1971 are the Missionary and Education Convention (Negro), the Texas Baptist Convention (Negro), and the Mexican Baptist Department Convention.

Each of the seven groups would meet separately for business session, and meet jointly for fellowship, and for a big evangelistic rally at Houston's famed Astrodome.

About 50,000 Baptists would attend the joint meetings, Allen predicted. Total membership of seven conventions is in excess of 3 million.

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