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November 13, 1970

Tennessee Baptists Ask College Trustees To Rescind Dancing Rule

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)-- Rejecting a compromise proposal, the Tennessee Baptist Convention adopted a substitute motion here asking trustees of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., to rescind their policy allowing dancing on the Baptist campus.

Messengers to the convention overwhelmingly approved the substitute motion which endorsed and affirmed action by the convention's Executive Board on May 12 requesting the trustees to reverse their decision permitting social dancing on campus.

Baptists in the state have been in an uproar over the issue since the news broke last March that the trustees voted to permit chaperoned dances as part of the school's social program.

The convention action was taken on a motion made by Howard Kolb, pastor of Audubon Park Baptist Church in Memphis, who told the convention the Carson-Newman trustees had already had six months to act on the May request of the Executive Board, but they "have ignored the request...and have tried to circumvent the Executive Board."

Kolb offered his motion reaffirming the board's May 12 request as a substitute for a compromise proposal offered by the Executive Board.

The compromise would have asked the education committee of the Executive Board to study the social needs of the students at Carson-Newman and bring recommendations to the board prior to the 1971 convention, and that findings be reported to the convention.

Earlier, the Carson-Newman trustees had asked the convention to appoint a committee to study the social program at all three colleges owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

About a week before the convention, the school's trustees met again and revised their request narrowing the field of the committee of study to Carson-Newman only. The revised request also stated that the trustees resolve to "withold their sanction of dancing on campus."

Some convention observers questioned whether the phrase "withold sanction of dancing" was virtually the same as to "rescind" the policy.

Debate on the compromise solution and Kolb's substitute lasted for about 40 minutes and at one point, a Memphis woman, Mrs. James W. Adams, was greeted with loud "boos" when she argued that the decision should be left up to the students who had the right to do whatever they wanted.

A Knoxville minister, John Buell, countered that any man who says he can dance with a woman and keep his mind pure "is either less than a man, or a liar."

A Baptist layman from Nashville, M. T. Harris, asked for a biblical admonition against dancing, and said that those who opposed dancing was making the convention look "ridiculous in the eyes of the world."

He also opposed churches cutting off funds from the school because of the policy, saying it was a form of blackmail. Before the convention, it was reported that about 100 churches within the convention had indicated intention to designate their unified budget contributions so that none of their funds would go to Carson-Newman.

The dancing issue overshadowed the only other major convention actions--adoption of a \$5.6 million budget for 1971, the same amount as the 1970 budget, and the election of Hayward Highfill, pastor of First Baptist, Clinton, Tenn., as president.

No increase was recommended in the budget by the Executive Board because the receipts are about \$135,000 short of the goal for 1970. It is the first time in 10 years that the convention is expected to fail to reach its budget goal.

Next year, the convention will meet at Gatlinburg, Tenn., Nov. 9-11.

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South Carolina Baptists Create
Pastor-Church Relations Office

11/13/70

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)-- The South Carolina Baptist Convention adopted a record budget, voted to create a pastor-church relations staff office, defeated an alternate slate of trustees proposed from the floor for one of its schools, and heard a constitutional amendment presented which some interpreted as an effort to oust churches that practice "alien immersion."

According to South Carolina convention procedure, however, constitution amendments presented in one convention session cannot be put to a vote until the following year.

William J. Taylor, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Abbeville, S.C., presented the constitution change, stipulating that churches sending messengers to the state body, "must be members of a local Baptist association in good standing."

Taylor, who one month earlier had made a motion that First Baptist Church in Greenwood, S.C., be excluded by Abbeville Baptist Association because it accepts members-baptized by churches of other denominations, said just before introducing the constitutional amendment that the Greenwood church was unsound in its doctrinal practice.

The Abbeville Baptist Association narrowly passed the motion excluding the Greenwood church after almost two hours of debate. Since last winter, the church has accepted transfer of membership of persons previously members of other churches which use means other than immersion or believer's baptism.

There was no debate on the proposal, since constitution changes can only be introduced one year, with action and debate the following year.

Members of the Greenwood church were seated as messengers to the convention without question this year.

In major business actions, the convention adopted a record \$5.5 million budget for 1971, an increase \$200,000 over the 1970 budget. The budget includes \$3.6 million for work in South Carolina and \$1.58 million for Southern Baptist causes.

Approving a special committee's report, the convention voted to establish a church-pastor personnel office under supervision of the convention's general secretary to provide counsel to churches, pastors and other staff members. There was little opposition to the proposal.

Also approved with little objection was the report of another special committee to study the salaries of pastors and other staff personnel.

The committee recommended that churches should seek to provide a minimum base salary of \$8,000 for a pastor, with housing and other fringe benefits additional.

Overwhelmingly defeated was a pastor's proposal nominating an alternate slate of trustees for Baptist College at Charleston. Everett Tolbert, pastor of Midland Park Baptist Church in Charleston, said he objected to the school's inviting the famed Al Hurt to play his trumpet at dedication of the college's library, because Hurt appears on a television beer commercial.

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Elected president of the convention was W. Daniel Greer, pastor of Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C. Next year, the convention meets at Columbia, S.C., Nov. 16-18.

There were no resolutions adopted by the convention for the first time convention officials could recall.

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Kentucky Convention Home
For Aged Proposal Rejected

11/13/70

LOUISVILLE (BP)-- Messengers to the 133rd annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention accepted a report from its Executive Board rejecting a proposed home for the aged which would operate under the convention's child care board.

The convention also approved appointment of a committee to study the office of executive secretary and recommend a nominee to succeed Executive Secretary Harold Sanders who retires in August of 1972.

The proposed home for the aged was recommended following a feasibility study requested by the convention meeting last year. The Executive Board's program committee and the child care board of directors recommended the program, but the board rejected the request by a two to one margin.

Alton McEachern, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, said that it is "time we practice some institutional birth control before we have to start practicing institutional mercy killing."

David Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., was appointed chairman of the special 24-member committee to nominate a new convention executive secretary.

The committee was asked to try to select a nominee by this time next year in order to "assure a smooth transfer of leadership."

In other action, the convention called for member churches to accept responsibility for educating members to the dangers of pornography, drug abuse and pollution.

The convention also went on record as opposed to "direct aid to non-public schools" by government, and President Richard M. Nixon's "occasional Vatican visitor" appointment.

A public affairs committee report called for the church to be a forum for open discussion on all issues, and proposed a study on methods of dissent in and out of the church from a Christian perspective. The report was approved without debate and without opposition.

Also approved was a lengthy sex education bibliography for use in churches or schools.

Resolutions adopted by the convention commended President Nixon for rejecting the report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, called for all members to practice and work for "clean speech" in mass media and private life, and urged Evangelist Billy Graham to accept an invitation to hold a crusade at the University of Kentucky.

A \$100,000 increase was approved in the convention's budget for the coming year, raising the total budget to \$4.2 million. Of this amount, 31.3 per cent will go to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

Elected president of the convention was John Claypool, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, and previous first vice president.

Next year the convention will meet at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., Nov. 9-11.

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Maryland Convention Approves Budget With Expected Deficit

ROCKVILLE, Md. (BP) -- The Baptist Convention of Maryland approved of deficit financing for 1971, adopting a budget of \$1,082,000--an amount five per cent higher than expected for the current year, and \$22,000 higher than expected in 1971.

Convention officials explained that the budget is based on needs, and that they hope that the income will be higher than they expect.

When the convention's Executive Board earlier recommended the budget, Convention Executive Secretary Roy D. Gresham said that the convention may have to cut back on expenditures next year, or use some of its reserve funds.

"However, the deficit is not uncomfortable for us and we could trust that the income will enable us to meet the budget as it is projected," Gresham told the board earlier.

Elected president of the convention was Frank A. Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Laurel, Md.

The budget includes a goal of \$826,500 to be raised by Maryland Baptist churches, with 60 per cent going to Maryland causes and 40 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention efforts.

A record 1,500 persons attended the convention, which also featured for the first time a youth rally which packed to overflowing the Montrose Baptist Church here. The rally featured a 520-voice youth choir, and a drama on the generation gap.

Next year, the convention meets at Grace Baptist Church, Cumberland, Md., Nov. 15-17.

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California Convention Retains Prohibition Against Alien Immersion

11/13/70

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)-- Rejecting two constitutional amendments which would eliminate restrictions against accepting messengers from churches which practice alien immersion and open communion, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California could not agree on what the term "alien immersion" really means.

In other major actions, the California convention observed its 30th anniversary, adopted a record budget, and approved a policy statement on federal aid to Baptist institutions in the states prohibiting grants and subsidized loans, but permitting loans "at a going rate of interest" and aid to individual students.

The alien immersion and open communion issues continued a controversy that started a year ago when 1969 convention in Santa Montica appointed a committee to define alien immersion.

The two constitution amendments also were introduced last year, but no action could be taken until 1970. They were aimed at eliminating 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 constitution amendments failed when the vote was evenly divided, but not enough for the two-thirds majority necessary to pass.

In a related action, the convention adopted the report of a committee appointed last year to define the terms alien immersion and open communion, but questioned what the committee's definition really meant.

The report defined "alien immersion" as "baptism administered by any church other than churches of like faith and order," and defined "open communion" as "an invitation to participate in the observance of the Lord's Supper to one who is not properly baptized."

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During discussion on the committee's report, the committee was asked what was meant by the phrase "churches of like faith and order." A motion, however requesting another committee study to define this phrase was resoundly defeated.

One messenger said that the convention face the fact that "churches of like faith and order" can be interpreted in different ways, and that the matter was left in the hands of the local churches.

Adopting the report of its committee to recommend a policy on federal aid for its institutions, the convention ruled out government grants and low-interest loans.

The committee report approved, however, of long-term government loans "at a going interest rate" and grants and loans to individual students. Such programs, the committee said, do not violate the Baptist principle of separation of church and state.

In a series of resolutions adopted by the convention, the messengers commended President Richard M. Nixon for his efforts in behalf of American prisoners of war and for his rejection of the report of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography; but they were critical of the president for appointing a personal representative to the Vatican.

The \$2.7 million budget for 1971 adopted by the convention includes a state Cooperative Program goal of nearly \$1.4 million, an increase of about \$40,000. Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes will receive 26 per cent.

Both the 30th anniversary of the founding of the convention, and the 20th anniversary of California Baptist College, here were observed. The anniversary emphasis traced the convention's development from a small beginning with 13 churches in 1940 to its current membership of 885 churches and 152 missions.

Elected to a second term as president was Levi Price, pastor of Narvonne Avenue Baptist Church in Lomita, Calif. Next year the convention will meet in Sacramento, Calif., Nov. 16-18.

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Mississippi Baptists Defeat
Trustee Power Limitations

11/13/70

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention refused to restrict the powers of trustees of its institutions to administer them, defeating two proposed constitutional amendments, one of which would permit use of federal funds without convention approval.

In other actions, the convention adopted a record budget, approved a year-long study of Christian education, and continued a committee study on whether the convention should rebuild its assemblies destroyed by Hurricane Camille.

The first of the constitutional amendments would have added the phrase "the convention itself" to the list of limitations mentioned by the constitution on the powers of the trustees of the institutions.

The second would have stated that "no federally funded program shall be approved or administered by the trustees...without specific convention approval."

Both amendments were rejected by a strong majority. Last year, the Mississippi Convention declined to instruct the trustees of its institutions in any matter of policy, but it did urge the trustees "not to accept federal aid for the institutions themselves."

Approving the report of its Christian education study committee appointed last year, Mississippi Baptists were asked to give continuing emphasis on Christian education which will stimulate Cooperative Program giving and make possible greater financial support for the schools.

The report also recommended that each school begin a development program to be coordinated by the convention's Education Commission, and suggested discussions on faculty

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exchanges and sharing of curriculum and campus facilities by Mississippi Baptist schools.

Continued for another year was a committee requested to study the future of Mississippi Baptists' assembly program. Both Gulfshore Assembly and Kittiwake Assembly, at Pass Christian, Miss., were destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

Also adopted was the report of the convention's Christian Action Commission, which challenged Baptists in the state to express concern on drug abuse, alcohol, pornography, gambling and other moral issues.

A record Cooperative Program budget of \$4.2 million for 1971 was approved, an increase of \$15,000 over the current budget. The budget will allocate 30.5 per cent of its total to Southern Baptist Convention causes, an increase over the 30 per cent in the 1970 outlay.

Elected president of the convention was Glenn Perry, a Baptist layman from Philadelphia, Miss. Perry is president of the Perry Construction Co.

The convention concluded with a youth rally attended by more than 12,000 persons. Next year, sessions will be held Nov. 9-11, at the First Baptist Church, Jackson.

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Kansas Convention Observes Anniversary, Adopts Budget

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)-- Observing its 25th anniversary, the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists meeting here heard encouraging reports on its financial situation and adopted a 1971 budget that is \$20,000 less than anticipated receipts, but \$12,000 less than the 1970 budget.

The total budget for 1971 adopted by the convention amounts to \$563,054 compared to anticipated income of \$583,650. The budget amount is a decrease of \$12,000 compared to the budget adopted by the convention in 1969 for the current fiscal year.

The total amount includes a goal of \$335,750 to be raised by churches in the convention, an increase of about \$5,000 over the 1970 goal. Of this amount, 17 per cent would go to Southern Baptist Convention world missions through Cooperative Program.

In a report to the convention, Executive Secretary Pat McDaniel said that churches within the convention have overpledged their goal in a "Strengthening Our Witness Campaign", with about \$675,000 pledged in the special fund drive to solve financial deficits in the convention's church loan and bond programs.

McDaniel said that so far in 1970, churches in the convention are giving about 50 per cent more through the Cooperative Program and the special campaign than they did in 1969.

He said that if the churches fulfill their pledges through the Cooperative Program and the "Strengthening Our Witness Campaign," and that if other state conventions that have pledged \$435,000 over a five-year period fulfill these commitments, the convention will be victorious in its efforts to overcome the financial difficulties it has faced for two years.

In 1968, the convention faced the possibility of insolvency when it was disclosed that the liabilities of the Church Loan Association of the convention exceeded its assets by \$1.6 million.

Elected as president of the convention was H. E. Alsup, pastor of First Baptist Church, Haysville, Kan.

Following a pageant observing the convention's 25th anniversary the messengers expressed appreciation to former executive secretary N. J. Westmoreland of Wichita, who resigned last year, giving him a standing ovation. Westmoreland was the first executive secretary of the convention.

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The convention also voted to express appreciation to the members of the board of managers which recently was released from its managerial responsibilities by the Kansas Securities Commissioner, Michael Quinn.

Resolutions adopted by the convention commended President Richard M. Nixon for rejecting the report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, praised those who had worked for the defeat of liquor by the drink proposals in Kansas, and opposed legislation in the state that would provide aid to parochial schools.

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Virginia Baptists Defeat Efforts
To Cut Budget To SBC, University

11/13/70

RICHMOND (BP)-- The Baptist General Association of Virginia meeting here defeated efforts to cut from its budget a \$247,500 allocation to the University of Richmond, and reversed an Executive Board recommendation that would have reduced the percentage of the budget going to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

In other actions, the association went on record as opposing the employment of a doctrinal reader by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but it rejected a motion urging the Southern Baptist Convention to rescind its request for the Sunday School Board to recall Volume One of the Broadman Bible Commentary.

The debate on the budget stretched over a two-day period, and was the major issue facing the annual meeting.

After lengthy debate, the messengers here voted 416 to 409, a margin of seven votes, to amend the budget to provide the same percentage distribution between Virginia and SBC causes as the 1970 budget, ---62 per cent to Virginia and 38 per cent through the SBC Cooperative Program.

The budget committee of the association had recommended a \$4.75 million budget for 1971, the same amount as the 1970 budget, but suggested changing the percentages of distribution from 62 to 64 per cent for Virginia, and from 38 to 36 per cent to the SBC.

Just after the budget committee presented the budget for consideration, Roland Powell, the pastor of the Matoaka Baptist Church, Matoaka, Va., asked for an amendment which would have eliminated University of Richmond from the total budget.

Powell objected to a policy adopted earlier this year by the school's board of trustees which permits students to drink alcoholic beverages in the dormitories.

Association officials said there was considerable debate on Powell's amendment, including a defense of the policy by University of Richmond President George Modlin, who said there was less drinking on the campus since the new policy than before.

Instead of approving Powell's motion, the association adopted a substitute motion proposed by William J. Cumbie, executive secretary of the Mount Vernon Baptist Association in Alexandria, Va., which would provide a procedure whereby churches that do not wish to contribute to the University of Richmond could bypass the school and their contributions would still be counted as Cooperative Program gifts.

Cumbie's proposal passed by an estimated three to one margin.

Under the previous procedure, any church which requested that its Cooperative Program contributions be withheld from any one institution could not count its gifts as a "Cooperative Program" contribution through the unified budget, but rather such gifts are considered "designated" contributions to the other causes in the budget.

Albert Simms, pastor of Rivermont Baptist Church, Lynchburg, Va., offered the amendment to the budget asking that the percentage of distribution between Virginia and SBC causes remain at the same 62-38 ratio as in 1970.

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On the first standing vote on Simms amendment, the chair ruled that the amendment had failed by a margin of about 40 votes. A written ballot, however, was requested, and the amendment carried by 416-409.

The total amount, \$4.75 million is the same as the 1970 total. Association officials pointed out that if contributions continue for the rest of the year at the present level, receipts will be about \$175,000 short of the budget; but they expect receipts in 1971 to equal the total budget needs.

In other actions, the association approved a motion by Paul Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., asking the association to go on record as opposing the appointment of a doctrinal reader by the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and requesting the board to review the appointment.

Mims submitted the motion on behalf of the religious liberty committee of the association, though it came during a miscellaneous business session rather than during the committee's report. Mims is secretary of the committee.

The association rejected, however, a motion by Robert Alley of the University of Richmond requesting the Southern Baptist Convention to rescind its action in Denver when it requested the SBC Sunday School Board to recall Volume One of Broadman Bible Commentary, and further requesting the Sunday School Board to reconsider its actual recall of the volume.

In adopting the report of its religious liberty committee, the association opposed a so-called "prayer amendment" to the U.S. Constitution as introduced by Sen. Hugh Scott (R.Pa.), reaffirmed opposition to government aid to public schools, and opposed any type of official representation between the U.S. Government and the Vatican or any other religious body.

The association also adopted the report of its Christian life and public affairs committee on drug abuse, conscientious objection, pornography, law and justice, and welfare morality, but soften the wording of a recommendation from the committee asking the General Board to study the matter of "pastorates forcibly terminated" and report with recommendations next year.

Elected president of the convention was Dr. John J. Bryan, a physician from Bluefield, Va.



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