

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Arizona Convention Releases
Hospitals; Asks Settlement**

YUMA, Arizona (BP)--For the second straight year, the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention voted to get out of the hospital business.

Acting on a recommendation from its depth study committee, the convention voted 216-37 after little discussion to release its three hospitals to ownership by their respective boards of trustees.

The action ends a controversy that has gone on for more than a year, including court suits seeking to settle ownership of the hospitals, and the dismissal of the hospital trusts by the convention's Executive Board.

Under terms of the four-point motion adopted by the convention, the hospitals have been asked to pay a \$500,000 settlement, with \$300,000 immediately upon settlement, and \$50,000 per year for four years at no interest.

The \$500,000 figure was payment "in consideration and solely for the purposes of compromise and settlement of the pending litigation."

The settlement would come from the Phoenix Baptist Hospital, Phoenix; the Scottsdale Baptist Hospital, Scottsdale, Ariz.; and the Parkview Baptist Hospital, Yuma, Ariz.

In return, the convention would release its control of the three hospitals to the respective boards of trustees, with convention executive officers and officers of the hospitals granted the legal power to execute all documents to carry out the recommendation "at the earliest possible date."

The settlement will also end the pending legal action against the hospital's governing boards.

Earlier this year, the convention filed suit against the 26 directors of the hospital association (composed of trustees for each of the three hospitals), asking the court to declare null and void amendments to their articles of incorporation which would sever ties with the convention.

In May, a federal court had dismissed another suit "for lack of jurisdiction" challenging the right of the convention to sell its Phoenix hospital.

The controversy began last summer when the convention's Executive Board called a special meeting of the state convention in September to consider the possibility of selling the hospitals. After five hours of debate, the special convention voted 422-208 to keep the hospitals.

In November, during the regular convention sessions, however, the messengers reversed themselves. Voting 133-125, a majority of only eight votes, the convention favored selling the three hospitals.

The convention's Executive Board was empowered to transact the sale, and the board was directed to provide 40 per cent of the funds derived from the sale to go to help financially-ailing Grand Canyon College in Phoenix.

The trustees of the hospitals apparently did not like the Executive Board's decision, and voted to change their articles of incorporation to sever ties with the convention.

In response, the convention filed a suit against the 26 trustees asking the court to void their changes in the articles of incorporation for the hospitals.

The Executive Board also conducted a hearing for 17 of the trustees who voted in favor of severing ties with the convention, asking them to show reasons why they should not be dismissed as trustees by the convention.

Action by the convention to release the hospitals to ownership by the trustees apparently ends the controversy, and settles the matter, provided the hospitals accept the settlement.

Though the hospital matter consumed little time at the convention meeting here, the issue overshadowed other actions including adoption of a \$867,283 budget for 1971, election of a new president, and approval of an effort to establish 100 new Baptist missions in the state during 1971.

Elected president of the convention was C. E. Archer, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Buckeye, Ariz.

During ~~misc~~ cellaneous business sessions, the convention approved a motion by Ed Packwood, layman from Phoenix, stipulating that 18 per cent of the amount received in the settlement between the convention and the three hospitals go to support Grand Canyon College in Phoenix.

The 18 per cent figure is the same percentage of the state convention budget that goes to Grand Canyon College, Packwood pointed out. No indication was given on how the remaining 82 per cent of the hospital settlement is to be spent.

In other action, the convention voted to continue the work of its depth study committee, which was requested in 1967 to study the convention's total program. This year, the committee's only recommendations dealt with the hospital release.

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

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Indiana Southern Baptists
Elect First Lay President

11/16/70

RICHMOND, Ind. (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana elected its first lay president, authorized a constitution revision committee, and took stands against public support of non-public schools and the report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography.

Meeting here for their annual state convention, Southern Baptists in Indiana elected O. Thomas Woods of Evansville, Ind., as their first layman president in the 12 year history of the state Baptist body.

After two amendments to the convention's constitution were presented, the convention authorized a committee to study the entire constitution and make recommendations next year. The document has been amended four times in the last five years.

The messengers stated that they were "unequivocally opposed" to granting public tax monies to aid and support parochial schools. The motion specifically referred to a "purchase of secular services" bill which has been approved by a legislative committee for introduction into the 1971 Indiana General Assembly.

A resolution was passed which encourages President Richard Nixon to restudy the recently released report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography "to obtain a realistic appraisal of the influence and impact of obscenity and pornography on this nation."

A record budget of \$603,346 was approved by the messengers. The total budget includes a record state Cooperative Program goal of \$372,000. Of this amount, 28.1 per cent will be shared with world missions through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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The 1971 State Convention of Baptists in Indiana will meet Nov. 3-5 at First Southern Baptist Church, Terre Haute, Ind.

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New Mexico Convention Adopts
Sweeping Reorganization Plan

11/16/70

ALAMOGORDO, N. M. (BP)--After debating the report of its special study committee for nearly six hours, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico adopted 10 recommendations of the committee which outlined a sweeping reorganization of the convention structure.

The convention adopted each of the 10 recommendations separately, and then approved the report as a whole by an estimated two to one margin.

Attempts to amend the recommendations met with repeated failure, although some of the substitute motions failed by a slim margin.

In presenting their recommendations, the committee pointed out that during the past 10 years, the convention's budgets have exceeded its income by \$458,634. "This does not mean that we owe that amount of money. It means that many of the programs included in the budget had to be eliminated... simply because money was not available..."

The committee acknowledged that an operating deficit this year has existed, however, and that the convention had approved a goal of \$53,000 in a special state mission offering to pay off the accumulated debt. So far, the convention is about \$30,000 short of its 1970 budget.

The reorganization suggested by the committee called for what some convention messengers termed a "drastic cutback" in personnel, although the report did not indicate how many positions would be eliminated in the reorganization.

The committee, in its report, estimated that the reorganization would eliminate more than \$44,000 from the current annual budget through both program and personnel cutbacks.

No budget, however, was adopted by the convention. Instead, the convention authorized its State Mission Board to draw up a budget based on the reorganization approved by the convention, and to adopt the budget in its January board meeting.

Most of the debate on the reorganization came on the committee's proposals to cut personnel assignments in the convention's student work program, and its education division that includes Sunday School, Training Union, music and student work promotion.

The committee had recommended that the convention adopt the policy of using students and local church workers on a voluntary, part-time basis rather than using paid, full-time directors on the five New Mexico campuses where Baptists have student work programs.

In making the recommendation, the committee pointed out that the student work program cost \$87,921 last year and reached only about 1,050 students at an average cost of \$83.00 per person.

Although the committee's recommendation finally prevailed, there were three substitute proposals presented, each offering various alternatives for continuing paid full-time student work directors at some of the universities. Each of the three amendments or substitutes lost.

Several amendments and substitute motions were also presented on the major organization structure proposed by the committee--the creation of five divisions working under an executive director and a business manager.

Under the new structure approved by the convention, the convention will operate with a Division of Special Ministries which will coordinate the children's home and all other special ministries (one executive); a Division of Communication Ministries including the state paper and public relations office (one executive); a Division of Education Ministries including Sunday School, church training, church music, and student work (two executives);

a Division of Mission Ministries including Brotherhood, evangelism, and Woman's Missionary Union (three executives); and a Division of Foundation and Church Loan Ministries (one executive).

During debate, the convention defeated amendments or substitute motions suggesting seven divisions (with WMU and student work divisions added) instead of five; that the educational and missions division be combined; that four staff members instead of two be employed in the education division and that the WMU office become a division.

The committee's recommendation that two encampments owned by the convention, Inlow and Cloudcroft camps, be used interchangeably for both boys and girls, and that the camp program be supervised by the business manager also ran into rough sledding in the debate.

Messengers defeated, however, amendments and substitutes proposing that the camps remain under the direction of the WMU and the Baptist men's organization as at the present; and that the Cloudcroft camp be sold and funds be used to pay off camp indebtedness.

Throughout the six hour debate, only one amendment passed, and it dealt with the routine matter of procedure for review of job description during the implementation of the study.

Other recommendations in the study called for preparation of a statement of convention policies, preparation of job description for staff members and committees, that division directors be named to implement the reorganization, that the convention adopt a salary scale and job grading system, and that the reorganization be implemented by Oct. 1, 1971.

Elected president of the convention was Wayland Edwards, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Artesia, N.M.

Next year the convention will meet at Fruit Avenue Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N.M., -- Nov. 14-16.



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