

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**South Carolina Board Names
Student as Voting Member****BUREAUS****ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1330 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 C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 333-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--The General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention approved a plan whereby a student will become a voting member of the convention's 66-member policy-making board, voted to recommend a record budget, and elected two new staff members.

If the plan is approved by the full convention in November, South Carolina will become the second Baptist state convention to provide for a student representative on the board as a voting member.

According to a survey conducted by the state Baptist Student Union, only Georgia Baptists have student representation with voting rights on the state Baptist board. Three other states, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon-Washington Baptists, have non-voting, ex-officio student participation.

The South Carolina board will ask the state convention to change its constitution to include the president of the state Baptist Student Union as a voting member of the board. The amendment stipulates that the BSU president must be a member of a South Carolina Baptist church.

Bill Bellinger, president of the state Baptist Student Union and a student at Furman University in Greenville, S. C., praised the action, saying it would "greatly increase communication between students and the structure" and could be "a turning point in youth attitudes toward the state convention and the total work of our churches.

"At a time when the institutional church and its organized structure is being attacked from all sides of society, and especially from every area of the campus, this is a positive step toward involving students significantly in the convention's work," Bellinger said.

In other action, the board voted to recommend adoption of a \$5.75 million budget for 1972, an increase of \$250,000 over the 1971 budget. The budget would allocate \$3.8 million for state Baptist causes, and \$1.9 million for Southern Baptist Convention efforts.

Elected to a newly-created position as the convention's first full-time consultant on church-minister-denomination relationships was Charles Henry Rabon, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S. C.

The board also named Benjamin Franklin Hawkins, superintendent of the Greenville Baptist Association, as the convention's first full-time director of stewardship development.

Rabon will coordinate a program approved by the 1970 South Carolina Convention which asked the new office to "work with pastorless churches and churchless pastors." He will also offer assistance to recent seminary graduates, and seek to make provision for help both to church and pastor in the time of crisis between church and pastor.

Rabon, formerly pastor of churches in Indiana, North and South Carolina, is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C.; Furman University, Greenville; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Hawkins, former pastor of Baptist churches in Rock Hill and Greer, S. C., is also a graduate of both Furman University and Southern Seminary. He also has been a vice president of the state convention and its General Board.

The board also voted to pass on to the state convention in Columbia on Nov. 16-18 a request from North Greenville Junior College to change its name to North Greenville College, and a request from the convention's Baptist Student Union department to change its name to Baptist Campus Ministry department.

Parks Outlines Indonesian
Plan for Seminary Operation

RICHMOND (BP)--A far-reaching plan to reorganize and revise theological education efforts in Indonesia was outlined to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board meeting here for its semi-annual session.

R. Keith Parks, the board's secretary for Southeast Asia who is making his home in Singapore for a year, gave the board a detailed view of the unique plan for extending the work of the seminary.

Parks pointed out that the seminary's reorganization was proposed during a meeting of the Indonesian Baptist Mission which was characterized by a "deepening spiritual awareness and renewal of commitment to a 'servant ministry.'"

He said that this "spiritual revivification" is being experienced by missionaries and nationals in almost every Southeast Asia country.

Under the plan for revising the Indonesian seminary located in Semarang, several branches of multilevel theological education would be added.

The central campus would retain "the highest level of theological education and become the research center. . . ." The branches also would offer theological education at seminary level as well as training for students with little or no formal education, Parks said.

The mission, after a year's experimentation with one branch and "years of searching," expects the new extension plan to result in the training of many more students than could be trained in just one location, Parks explained. Present leaders can be trained without dissociating from their communities.

Other advantages are that more pastors and missionaries can be utilized in training roles at local levels, per student cost will be less, and qualified students can enter high level theological studies unhindered by others who lack proper educational backgrounds.

The Indonesian Mission also will "move with a different emphasis in evangelistic efforts," Parks continued. Moving into vast cities and into rural areas, the missionary will seek to win and train local leaders. They, in turn, after study with the missionary, will be leaders of worship in their own homes.

As these "house churches" proliferate, the missionary expects to see larger groupings for worship at Indonesian initiative and according to Indonesian expression. The missionary's public preaching will take place mostly in larger gatherings, revivals, rallies and existing churches, he continued.

Parks reported that the Indonesian Mission reached other conclusions concerning, for example, closer working relationships with Indonesian Baptists and less pretentious life styles for missionaries.

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North Carolina Convention
Warned About Watchdog Role

10/15/71

ASHEBORO, N. C. (BP)--The general secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, in a speech before the convention's General Board here, warned against the convention's "serving as a watchdog for orthodoxy in the churches."

W. Perry Crouch was referring to an amendment which will be introduced at the state convention Nov. 22-24 in Charlotte that would limit admission of convention messengers to those representing churches that have a strict policy on baptism by immersion.

M. O. Owens Jr., pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N. C., has served notice that he will introduce a constitutional amendment at the convention limiting convention messengers to those from churches "practicing baptism by immersion only, thus consisting of immersed, professed believers in Jesus Christ."

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In fulfillment of constitutional requirements, Owens' proposed amendment was published in the Biblical Recorder, the convention's official weekly newspaper, on the week of the General Board meeting. It must also be published once more, be read twice at the convention, and receive a two-thirds majority to pass.

In his address to the General Board, Crouch warned that "the mode of baptism is not the subject in question (since) 99.99 per cent of our Baptist people agree on that subject. The real question is," Crouch continued, "shall we establish a required creed for our convention?"

"Baptists have never been a creedal people," Crouch declared. "I am confident they will not transform our democratic convention into an authoratative, ecclesiastical organization."

He added that for 141 years the convention has operated under the purpose outlined in the constitution: "The object of this convention shall be to promote missions, evangelism, education, social services, distribution of the Bible and sound religious literature, and to cooperate with the work of the Baptist State Convention."

Crouch pointed out that the constitution says that "churches are not voted into our convention, but qualified to send messengers when 'they work in friendly cooperation with this convention and are sympathetic with its purpose and work.'"

The convention's chief executive officer urged the Baptists of the state to "keep it (the convention) a great, cooperative convention."

In major actions, the General Board recommended adoption of a record budget, approved loan requests from four Baptist institutions in the state, and agreed to a request of Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N. C., to phase out its nursing and paramedical schools.

Loans totalling \$16.5 million were approved, including a \$14 million loan to the hospital in Winston-Salem. Other loans approved were a loan for \$2 million to Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C., for construction of a library and other buildings; \$250,000 to Campbell College in Buie's Creek, N. C., for construction of a swimming pool and field house; and \$275,000 to Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute, Hendersonville, to fund the reconstruction of a classroom building which was recently destroyed by fire.

Another board recommendation would enlarge the board of trustees for the Baptist Children's Home from 18 ~~members~~ to 36.

Major interest during the board meeting, however, centered around Crouch's address, and speculation of a major controversy brewing at the state convention over the issue of baptism.

Owens, who plans to introduce the constitutional amendment, is head of a group called "Baptists United for Spiritual Renewal. The group met in Charlotte in September during a Bible prophecy conference at Derita Baptist Church, and decided to ask Owens to introduce the amendment at the convention. About 50 persons attended the Charlotte meeting.