

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2385
W. G. Riddle, Director
For News Release, Call (615) 244-2385**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) 254-3461
RICHMOND Jesse G. Fletcher, 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) 344-4226

November 12, 1971

Kentucky Convention Elects Black; Regrets "Becoming"

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--For the first time, the Kentucky Baptist Convention elected a black Baptist pastor as an officer, and adopted a resolution expressing "extreme disappointment" with the recent revision of a church training quarterly by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board because of "potentially inflammatory" material on race relations.

Elected second vice president of the convention was Charles N. King, pastor of the Corinthian Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky. The church is dually aligned with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

The resolution dealing with the quarterly revision came from the convention's resolution committee. Earlier three resolutions on the topic were introduced from the floor. All expressed regret and disappointment over revision of the quarterly, *Becoming*, for 14-15-year-olds.

The adopted resolution said "the handling of this event has pictured Southern Baptists as being largely racial segregationists and has raised serious questions about our commitment to racial reconciliation."

The resolution called on the Sunday School Board to "forthrightly address itself to the problem of racial reconciliation," and denounced racial segregation as "inherently unChristian."

The messengers also reaffirmed their commitment to racial reconciliation and called on Kentucky Baptist churches to actively engage in efforts aimed at improving relationships among men of all races.

Earlier the convention's Executive Board had adopted a similar resolution.

Other resolutions adopted dealt with prison reform, tax aid to nonpublic schools, support of the Kentucky Temperance League, and endorsement of the American Bible Society program.

The messengers called on fellow Christians to support legislation which would upgrade physical conditions in all detention centers. They also asked local and state governments to implement true correctional programs and to improve the quality of correctional staff.

Concerning tax aid to nonpublic schools, the messengers called on Kentucky and national leadership to oppose appropriation of public funds for these school systems. The resolution also expressed the messengers' confidence in the public school system.

Two attempts to amend the convention's constitution concerning representation of the state Executive Board were referred back to the committee. Also referred to the committee were motions calling for a feasibility study of consolidating the state's three Baptist colleges into one institution and providing additional funds for Christian higher education in the form of \$100 scholarships for Kentucky Baptist students attending Kentucky Baptist colleges.

A record budget of \$4.3 million was approved, with 31.4 per cent designated to world missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

Elected president of the convention was Harold Wainscott, pastor of Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky.

King, the first Negro to serve as a convention officer, was selected as "pastor of the year" by Baptist pastors in the Franklin Baptist Association (Frankfort area). He holds the doctor of philosophy degree and is a faculty member at Kentucky State College, Frankfort, in addition to his pastorate.

Next year the convention will meet at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Nov. 14-16.

Florida Convention D feats Move to Sever Stetson Ties

TAMPA, Fla. (BP)--After a motion was presented calling for the Florida Baptist Convention to sever ties with Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., because of the use of obscenities in a student newspaper, the convention instead overwhelmingly gave a vote of confidence to Stetson President John E. Johns for his handling of the controversy.

The convention also turned down a move by Palm Beach Atlantic College to receive a \$50,000 scholarship fund, adopted a record budget, voted to study the needs of a church-pastor-staff relations ministry, and continued a committee study of pastor and church staff salaries in Florida.

The proposal to sever ties with Stetson University came when Franklin W. Jessup, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Tampa, expressed opposition to use of several "obscene words" in the September 18 issue of the Stetson Reporter.

Stetson President Johns, however, told the convention that the school did not condone the article, and had taken "drastic action to prevent similar episodes in the future. I have cleaned house," Johns said.

A substitute motion offered by James Monroe of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., giving Johns a vote of confidence, was approved by an overwhelming margin, observers said.

Debate also centered around a proposal by Palm Beach Atlantic College, a school owned and operated by the Palm Lake Baptist Association in West Palm Beach, seeking to amend the convention's new budget in order to receive \$50,000 in scholarship funds for ministerial students.

During the debate, opponents pointed out that the constitution prohibits allocation of state Cooperative Program funds to any institution not owned or controlled by the Florida Baptist Convention. Last year, the convention voted against accepting the West Palm Beach school as a state Baptist institution.

In defeating the amendment to the budget, the convention messengers pointed out that students at Palm Beach Atlantic College are eligible along with other qualified students in regular convention scholarship funds.

Quick approval was given to a recommendation from the State Board of Missions for that board to study the possibility of establishing a statewide program to help churches seeking church staff members, and pastors and church staff members seeking church-related positions. Findings of the study are to be brought to the 1972 convention in Tallahassee, Nov. 7-9.

The convention also voted to continue a church staff salary study committee composed of laymen "as necessary" to maintain "appropriate emphasis" on the church staff salary study that was made by the committee this year.

The committee reported that the average pastor's salary in Florida was about \$7,200, and was on the same level as a beginning public school teacher in Florida.

In other actions, the convention elected James L. Pleitz, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., as president, and adopted without change the recommended \$4.5 million budget for 1972. The budget would allocate 46 per cent of church contributions to world-wide Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Two resolutions directed to the governor of Florida, Ruben Askew, were adopted by the convention.

One commended the governor for "high moral principles including personal abstinence from alcoholic beverages." Another requested the governor to appoint a commission to study the problem of alcoholism and its relationship to the cost of highway accidents, crime rates, mental health problems and broken homes.

The convention also approved the purchase of 77 acres of land adjacent to Lake Yale Baptist Assembly, and voted to dedicate the Florida Baptist Annual to the late C. Roy Angell, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Miami for 25 years.

Arizona Baptists Elect
Layman, Mexican Officers

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention meeting here elected a layman as its president, named a Mexican-American pastor as first vice president, and heard a closing inspirational message by a Black Baptist preacher.

The convention also adopted a budget \$7,300 lower than the 1971 budget, a total of \$856,793 for 1972.

The total budget includes a state goal of \$53,800, with the remainder coming primarily from the Southern Baptist Home and Foreign Mission Boards. Southern Baptist causes would receive 18 per cent of the state goal.

In other major business, the convention approved a long-range plan for developing a "focus evangelism" program majoring on lay schools of evangelism, and approved of Arizona participation in the "People to People" program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A record year of baptisms, with 4,441 conversions, was reported. It was an increase of 23 per cent over the number of baptisms last year.

Elected president of the convention was Truett Thompson, professor of electrical engineering at Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. First vice president is Alex Davila, pastor of Templo Bautista (Baptist Temple) in Glendale, Ariz. The closing message was brought by Emmanuel Scott, a black Baptist preacher from California.

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Utah-Idaho Baptists
Adopt Record Budget

11/12/71

POCATELLO, Idaho (BP)--The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention meeting here adopted a record budget, heard reports on growth of Baptist work, and elected an Arizona pastor as president.

A budget of \$270,282 for 1972 was approved. The budget includes a state goal of \$69,967, allocating 20 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention mission causes.

Elected president was M. K. Wilder, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Page, Ariz.

Total membership was reported at 9,618, an increase of 670. Baptisms for 1971 were 526, up 26 over last year.

Next year the convention will meet at First Southern Baptist Church, Provo, Utah, Nov. 6-8.

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New Mexico Convention
Adopts Resolutions

11/12/71

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of New Mexico adopted numerous resolutions here on such topics as alcoholism, aid to parochial schools, gambling, use of marijuana, drug abuse, and evangelism.

The convention adopted a budget of \$625,892, an increase of about \$46,000. The total budget includes a goal of \$148,740 to be contributed by Southern Baptist churches in the state. Of the state goal, 27 per cent would go to Southern Baptist mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Leroy Looper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Sumner, N. M.

Resolutions opposed the sale and use of alcoholic beverages, called on President Nixon and the New Mexico delegation to Congress to resist any efforts to use federal tax funds for parochial school aid; urged Baptists to oppose any form of parochial aid; opposed legalized gambling and the sale and use of marijuana, urged adoption of stronger laws on pornography, drug abuse and intoxication, and urged all Baptist churches to emphasize lay evangelism.

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Illinois Baptists Reject Racism;
Approve Church-Pastor Services

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association here defeated an attempt to kill a proposed church-pastor relations service projected by the convention's state board, and adopted a strong resolution rejecting racism.

The resolution commended individuals and churches who have "sought ways to bridge prejudicial barriers and reject racism," and praised those who have set examples which would "correct the false label our Southern Baptist Convention and churches have as being racists."

Major debate centered around a proposal from the floor which would have rescinded the action of the convention's Board of Directors in September to establish a church information service to help pastorless churches and churchless pastors get together.

The proposal to rescind the proposed service planned by the board was defeated by a vote of 159 to 124.

During the discussion, opponents of the proposed service argued that such a computerized information service would deny the leadership of the Holy Spirit in a church's effort to call a new pastor or church staff member. "This is of the devil," charged one opponent.

Defeat of the proposal to rescind the board's previous action was interpreted as an authorization for the board's Church Development Division to proceed with plans for the information service as planned.

Resolutions adopted by the association not only opposed racism, but also urged the Illinois General Assembly to pass an implied consent law whereby persons who are suspected of driving while intoxicated "imply their consent" to take an alcohol blood test by driving a moving vehicle. Illinois is reported to be the only state in the nation without an implied consent law.

Other resolutions called on churches to "work with compassion for meaningful solution" to the drug abuse problem, expressed opposition to public aid for religious education, and urged Baptists to work for religious liberty.

In other actions, the messengers adopted a 1972 budget of \$1.3 million, with 27 per cent of the state-wide goal allocated to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The convention also authorized financing a new Baptist Building through the sale of \$1.2 million in Broadway Bonds.

Dedication of the new Baptist Building and open house for the headquarters was another highlight of the sessions.

Messengers voted during business sessions to authorize the employment of a director of evangelism on the state staff, a position vacant since last December. No person has yet been selected for the position, but the duties had been assigned to Ron Lewis, new manager of the association's Church Development Division.

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Re-elected president of the convention was Dale Clemens, pastor of Meadow Heights Baptist Church, Collingsville, Ill.

For the first time a student, Phil Coates of Southern Illinois University, was elected to the Board of Directors for the state association.

Four new churches were accepted into the association, including one white, one Spanish-speaking, one French black, and one black church. They are Memorial Baptist Church, Milan (white); Del Salvadore Baptist Church, Chicago (Spanish-speaking); Greater Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chicago, (French-black); and Pilgrim Baptist Church, East St. Louis (black).

Next year the convention will meet Nov. 14-15 at DuQuoin, Ill.

Kansas Convention May
Reach Fund Goal by '72

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP)--Emphasizing a fund campaign to pull the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists out of financial difficulties, the convention meeting here heard a report predicting that it would reach its \$500,000 goal in the campaign by the end of 1972, ahead of schedule.

Churches in Kansas and Nebraska have pledged \$672,000 in the "Strengthen Our Witness" campaign scheduled for completion in December, 1973, oversubscribing the goal of \$500,000.

Executive Secretary Pat McDaniel, in a report to the convention, said that it now appears that the churches will reach the \$500,000 goal by the end of 1972.

Citing the "sacrificial giving" of Baptists in the two-state area, McDaniel said that in spite of the economic adversities in 1971, the convention gave \$34,664 more through the Cooperative Program and the Strengthen Our Witness campaign this year compared to gifts for the same period last year. Total amount given was listed at \$489,356.

The "Strengthen Our Witness" campaign was initiated in 1969 as part of a three-phase plan to raise \$1.6 million to save the convention from insolvency caused by the financial collapse of the convention's Church Loan Association.

In other actions here, the convention adopted a budget of \$638,523, a slight increase over the 1971 budget. The budget includes a state goal of \$365,740, allocating 17 per cent to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, after the priority item of \$135,112 for the Church Loan Association indebtedness.

In a meeting prior to the convention, the Executive Board of the convention voted to publish the state Baptist paper, the Baptist Digest, on a bi-monthly basis rather than weekly, eliminating two staff members assigned previously to the paper.

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

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Northern Plains Commends
Prayer Amendment Defeat

11/12/71

PIERRE, S. D. (BP)--Messengers to the Northern Plains Baptist Convention here adopted a resolution commending Congressmen who voted against the so-called "prayer amendment" to the U. S. Constitution.

During sessions described as "harmonious," the convention also adopted a total budget of \$208,000, including a goal of \$108,500 to be contributed by the 81 churches in the convention. Of the state goal, 13 per cent would go to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Ralph Ehren, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Rapid City, S. D.

A Negro Baptist layman from Rapid City, Charles Harkins, was elected president of the convention's Brotherhood (laymen's) organization. Harkins, a retired service man, is employed by Control Data Corp. in Rapid City.

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Tennessee Convention
To Study Academy Future

11/12/71

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP)--After lengthy debate, the Tennessee Baptist Convention here voted to refer a proposal to discontinue Harrison-Chilowee Baptist Academy in Seymour, Tenn., to the education committee of its Executive Board for study and a recommendation next year.

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The proposal to dissolve the academy located near Knoxville was made by James Stroud, pastor of Park Lane Baptist Church in Knoxville. The convention approved, however, a substitute motion by Ralph Norton, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Red Bank, Tenn., to refer the proposal to the committee for study.

The education committee of the convention's Executive Board will be asked to study the future of the academy and report to the convention in 1972.

In other major actions, the convention adopted a record budget of \$6 million, an increase of \$325,000 over the 1971 budget.

W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary of the convention, was recognized for 15 years of service to the denomination. Kendall announced to the Executive Board his plans to retire as executive secretary at the end of 1972.

A resolution opposing parimutuel gambling in Tennessee and praising Gov. Winfield Dunn for vetoing legislation on legalized gambling last year was approved by the convention.

In pre-convention session, the board elected Vern Powers, former pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, as director of protection plans for the convention, effective December 1.

Courtney Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Henderson, Tenn., a suburb of Nashville, was elected president.