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November 19, 1971

**Arkansas Baptists Seat  
Ousted Church Messengers**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)**--The Arkansas Baptist State Convention moved a step closer to solving a fellowship problem with four churches ousted two years ago because of doctrinal practices during the convention's annual sessions here.

The convention seated messengers from three of the four churches during the opening session without protest, and voted to accept a committee report interpreting the convention's constitutional provisions on membership.

The fellowship problem has plagued the convention since 1968 when messengers from the four churches were denied admission to the convention because the churches practice "open communion" or "alien immersion."

Messengers from three of the churches---First Baptist Church of Russellville, First Baptist Church of Malvern, and Lake Village Baptist Church of Lake Village, Ark.---were seated without protest during the opening session. The fourth church, University Baptist Church of Little Rock, has since been reorganized into Lakeshore Drive Baptist Church, a congregation considered in full fellowship with the convention and the local association.

The convention here also approved a report from a 25-member committee appointed two years ago to study and make recommendations on solving the controversy.

The committee recommended that the constitutional provision which limits messengers to those from "regular Baptist churches" be interpreted to mean messengers from "those churches which in doctrine and in practice adhere to the principles and spirit of the 'Baptist Faith and Message' statement as adopted by the 1963 session of the Southern Baptist Convention and adopted by the 1970 session of the Arkansas State Convention as its doctrinal guideline."

An amendment to the committee's report was approved by a vote of 389-263, adding that "The 'Baptist Faith and Message' shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion or alien immersion." The amendment was offered by Wayne Davis, pastor of the Oaks Grove Baptist Church, a rural congregation near Van Buren, Ark.

In other actions, the convention adopted a \$2.9 million budget, an increase of \$222,012 over the 1971 budget. The proposed budget would allocate \$1 million to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

In a report to the convention, the messengers learned that nearly one half of a \$4 million fund campaign has already been pledged to assist two Baptist colleges in the state--Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, and Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge.

Elected president of the convention was Rheubin L. South, pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church, North Little Rock.

Resolutions adopted by the convention deplored growing permissiveness in society and the use of four-letter words on television, and urged Congress to adopt legislation requiring labels on alcoholic beverages to warn that its use was potentially hazardous.

Black evangelist Tom Skinner of Brooklyn, N.Y., in the closing address, expressed concern and disappointment to news reports that the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board had revised a quarterly for teenagers that carried a photograph of a Negro youth conversing with two white girls.

Though Skinner did not refer to the board by name, he observed that "this says to me that this agency is more concerned with doing what is expedient from a profit standpoint than with following Christ in human relations."

Next year, the convention will meet Nov. 14-16 at Second Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Ark.

**Baptist World Alliance  
Adopts Enlarged Budget**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist World Alliance's administrative committee adopted an enlarged operating budget of \$206,500 for 1972 despite the prospect of having to dip into its reserves.

The 1972 budget is an increase of \$12,500 over the 1971 budget of \$194,000.

Carl W. Tiller, treasurer of the alliance, predicted a 1972 income of about \$156,000 from member conventions and unions, and about \$40,000 from individual givers, churches and other sources.

"The larger budget means that we must have more and larger contributions from individuals and churches as well as possible increases in allocations from member bodies," Tiller said.

Members of the committee urged an increased observance of Baptist World Alliance Sunday in the churches on Feb. 6, 1972, with the suggestion that, where possible, special offerings be taken for the BWA's worldwide program.

Additional emphasis also will be placed on a "friends of the Alliance" program wherein individuals make annual gifts of \$40 to \$1,000.

Committee members also unveiled a portrait of Josef Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Alliance, 1960-1969. Painted by an artist in Norway, Nordenhaug's homeland, the portrait was a gift of Nordenhaug's brother, George, in Norway.

More than 60 Baptist conventions and unions have pledged cooperation and financial support in the alliance's World Mission of Reconciliation through Jesus Christ, which will reach a climax in 1973-1975. Joseph B. Underwood of Richmond is general chairman.

Plans for the 13th Baptist World Congress, slated for Stockholm, Sweden in 1975, were discussed. The proposed date for the congress is July 7-11, 1975.

It was announced also that the eighth Baptist Youth World Conference, originally scheduled for Squaw Valley, Calif., in 1973, has been postponed to 1974, and the meeting place is yet undetermined.

A proposal from the Commission of Christian Teaching and Training that it be made a full department of the alliance was referred to a special committee of the BWA Executive Committee which is studying structure and constitutional revision.

It was announced also that the Baptist World, official news bulletin of the alliance, will be published monthly, except for July and August, in 1972, rather than bi-monthly as at present.

Members of the committee paid special tribute to two Baptist leaders who had died the preceding week. They were Sergei T. Timchenko of Moscow, a vice president of the All Union Baptist Council of the USSR, and Earl L. Harrison of Washington, D.C., president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

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**Colorado Convention Opposes  
Sweepstakes Lottery in State**

11/19/71

BOULDER, Colo. (BP)--The Colorado Baptist General Convention meeting here adopted a resolution expressing strong opposition to a proposal to initiate a sweepstakes lottery in Colorado next year.

The convention also adopted a record budget, noted a record year in the number of baptisms, and elected a new president.

Earlier this year, the Colorado legislature passed a proposed sweepstakes lottery bill, with a referendum on the proposal in 1972.

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The Colorado convention went on record as "unalterably opposed to gambling in any form and the Colorado sweepstakes bill in particular." It urged Christians in Colorado to vote against the measure next year.

Another resolution deplored trends toward increased obscenity, pornography and drug abuse.

The record budget of \$594,150 was adopted without opposition. The budget increases the allocation to Southern Baptist world missions by .5 per cent, providing 19.5 per cent of the contributions from Colorado churches to world missions.

A record year in baptisms (conversions) was reported, with 2,751 baptisms recorded in the convention's churches.

Elected president was Jack Carroll, pastor of Truett Memorial Baptist Church, Denver.

Next year the convention will meet in Aurora, Colo., Nov. 14-16.

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California Baptists Score  
Quarterly, Elect Black Officer

11/19/71

SCRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)--Southern Baptists in California expressed displeasure with the banning of a church literature quarterly because of racial content, elected a black Baptist pastor as vice president, and refused to seat messengers from four churches which practice either "alien immersion" or "open communion."

An effort to amend the convention's constitution to revise a section which prohibits seating of messengers from churches which practice "alien immersion" and "open communion" was also defeated.

The resolution on the church literature quarterly called for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which produced the quarterly and revised it after printing because it contained "potentially inflammatory" material on race relations, to make a public explanation of the action.

It also asked the board to "publicize its position on race relations, and its belief in integration."

The resolution pointed out that California Southern Baptists "believe in integration of our churches...and are committed to being Christian in the area of race relations." It added that because of the action of the board in withdrawing the material, "the work of God in minority areas has been hindered."

In addition to the resolution, the convention elected a black pastor for the first time as vice president. Named second vice president was Jesse Davis, black pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Oakland, Calif.

Elected president was J. Thurmond George, pastor of Foxworthy Baptist Church, San Jose, Calif.

Continuing an unresolved issue raging for the last three years, the convention voted to accept the report of its credentials committee which ruled that messengers from four churches could not be seated because of a constitutional provision prohibiting participation by messengers from churches practicing "alien immersion" or "open communion."

The four churches were the First Southern Baptist Church of Chula Vista, the Calvary Baptist Church of Westminster, the Orangeburg Avenue Baptist Church of Modesto, and the Central Baptist Church of Alameda, Calif.

An amendment to the constitution, submitted last year, was defeated in an effort to change the requirement. The defeated amendment would have accepted messengers from churches which subscribe to the statement of Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963, or the New Hampshire Declaration of Faith or some similar statement.

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Two other constitutional amendments were introduced this year on the matter, for action in next year's sessions at Santa Maria, Calif., Nov. 14-16.

One such amendment, offered by W. B. Timberlake of First Baptist Church in Lompoc, Calif., would accept only messengers have been baptized by the authority of cooperating Southern Baptist churches.

The second proposed amendment, introduced by Harley J. Ray of Anaheim, Calif., would limit messengers to those baptized by immersion, but would not stipulate that such immersion must be performed by a Southern Baptist church.

Action by the convention this year left unsolved a debate over doctrine which has been raging for several years. Last year, a special committee assigned to deal with the issue sought to help resolve the issue by defining the terms "alien immersion" and "open communion" as used in the constitution.

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

In other action, the convention adopted a record budget of \$2.8 million, allocating \$744,600 to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

A resolution adopted by the convention commended the California State Board of Education for plans to use public school textbooks which teach the Biblical account of creation as well as the evolution theory of creation.

The resolution also warned the board of education that there have been cases where California students have been harrassed and denied the right to carry and read Bibles, witness and pray on some school campuses in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

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South Carolina Baptists  
Observe 150th Anniversary

11/19/71

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--The South Carolina Baptist Convention, emphasizing worship and drama in celebration of its 150th anniversary, quickly turned down four controversial motions as messengers held to a note of harmony.

During its sesquicentennial session here, the convention met for its closing session at the church where the convention was organized in 1821--First Baptist Church here. Other sessions were at the University of South Carolina Coliseum.

Emphasis throughout the convention was on the 150th anniversary, with a historical pageant, "Saints of Clay," depicting life among South Carolina Baptists through 150 years. It was written by Louie Latimer Owens of Columbia, a noted historian who wrote a book by the same title on South Carolina Baptist history.

In business actions, the convention turned down three controversial motions, and heard another such motion withdrawn after convention leaders lined up to oppose it.

One motion defeated called for appointment of a committee of 10 members to investigate attitudes at four South Carolina Baptist colleges on acceptance of federal grants.

Another motion defeated would have withheld financial support from Furman University, Greenville, S. C.

The motion charged that Furman professors do not teach that the Bible is the true word of God, that a nude rock music group performed on the campus, that a chapel speaker had urged students to get out of the church, and that the 1971 school yearbook contained a beer advertisement.

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Furman President Gordon W. Blackwell heatedly denied each charge, receiving two sustained ovations. He urged the school's detractors to "do the Christian thing" by investigating rumors rather than making false charges.

Also defeated was a motion to change the constitution to require that messengers to the convention must come from churches which are members of local Baptist associations. The motion was allegedly aimed at excluding from the convention First Baptist Church of Greenwood, S.C., a congregation which accepts members from other denominations without baptism by immersion.

Earlier, a motion which would specifically have denied seats to the church's messengers was defeated.

A proposed constitutional change was introduced for action next year, asking that convention messengers come only from churches which require "baptism by immersion of professed believers in Jesus Christ." Vote on the amendment will come up next year.

A motion that would have prevented convention nominating committees from receiving "outside advice" on their nominations for trustees of institutions was withdrawn after several former convention leaders rose to oppose the proposal.

In adoption of resolutions, the convention approved a proposal from the South Carolina Baptist Student Union Convention calling for Baptist churches in the state to observe Sunday, Nov. 21, as a "day of reconciliation and prayer" on the racial issue.

Students had expressed concern over news reports that the pastor of the Due West Baptist Church, Due West, S. C., had been fired over his support for accepting Negroes into the church.

In other action, the convention adopted a budget of \$5.7 million for 1972, allocating \$1.9 million for Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Elected president of the convention was Stewart B. Simms, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greer, S.C., and vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Next year the convention will meet Nov. 14-16 at Myrtle Beach, S.C.