



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

**BUREAUS**

**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Orville Scott, 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) 254-5461  
**RICHMOND** Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Carrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 3, 1972

**Texas Baptists Hold Calm,  
Placid Annual Convention**

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Texas Baptists skimmed placidly over unruffled waters during their annual convention here, disturbed only by reports of legislative double dealing and shocked by a surprise announcement that their top executive would retire next year.

T.A. Patterson, executive secretary of the 1.9 million member convention for the past 12 years, announced he would retire Dec. 31, 1973, after 13 years in office, the longest continuous term of any Texas Baptist executive secretary.

In a report to the convention, the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission revealed the names of 11 Texas legislators and legislative candidates who gave inconsistent answers to two separate polls on horse race gambling in Texas.

The 11 candidates said in a poll conducted by the Texas Horse Council they favored and supported a state-wide vote on parimutuel horse race betting on a local option basis, but replied to a poll conducted by the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission that they opposed such a state-wide vote on parimutuel gambling.

In a separate report covering a wide range of social concerns, the commission charged that gambling interests are employing "extreme tactics" including "an unbelievable, blatant attempt to buy votes by offering campaign contributions to those who will promise them a vote."

James M. Dunn, executive secretary of the commission said in presenting the report that "absurdly high" election costs have "virtually created a government with a 'for sale' sign on it."

The report called for sweeping reforms in state government and a major overhaul of the state system of criminal justice, and passage of a bi-lingual education law to stem the school dropout rate of Mexican-Americans.

In major business, the convention approved a record, but "bone bare" budget of \$15.7 million, an increase of \$525,000 over last year.

Re-elected as president was Landrum P. Leavell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Tex. New vice presidents elected were James Flammig, pastor of First Baptist Church, Abilene, and William Pinson, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Business sessions, in a marked change from recent years, were routine and drew little attention, observers said. For the first time in several years, messengers had no debates on such questions as acceptance of federal aid for Baptist institutions, or release of an institution to a private, self-perpetuating board.

In a series of resolutions, messengers commended efforts of national leaders to end hostilities in Southeast Asia, urged rejection of efforts to support private institutions with public funds, and advocated efforts to include more qualified women, blacks, Mexican-Americans, youth and representatives of small churches on all Texas Baptist boards and committees.

Other resolutions called for individual, corporate and governmental concern over pollution, and expressed deep concern over the widespread abuse of drugs and alcohol, and voiced continued opposition to liberalizing liquor laws in Texas.

-more-

**DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY**  
**S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In a major address to the convention, radio-television personality Art Linkletter, son of a Baptist minister, said that "the greatest, positive alternative to drug use, without any doubt, is Jesus Christ.

"People use drugs because they need something," said Linkletter, whose own daughter took her life during an L.S.D. flashback. "They need Jesus, who supplies the answer and is available all the time, day and night, anywhere, alone or with people.

"Yet religion is not the only positive alternative, and is not going to be everyone's choice as an alternative to drugs," he said. Linkletter then described projects which various schools around the country are trying out to counteract drug abuse.

A small 61 member Mexican-American church, led by an Anglo who resigned the state police force to become pastor, was named Texas Baptist Church of the Year. Primera Baptist Church, Sonora, Tex., received the award for what it had accomplished with its resources.

Murray Neal, managing editor of the Waco (Tex.) News-Tribune and Times Herald, received the annual award for "significant contributions to Christianity through the media."

A special posthumous award went to David M. Gardner, editor of the Baptist Standard from 1944-54. Gardner died at age 85 just before the convention convened.

-30-

#### SBC Starts New Fiscal Year With Big Increase in Giving

11/3/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention began a new fiscal year in October with a big increase in contributions through the denomination's unified budget, the Cooperative Program.

For the month of October, gifts through the Cooperative Program totalled \$2,715,055, an increase of \$217,413 or 8.7 per cent over gifts for the same month in 1971.

SBC officials here said they were greatly encouraged by the way Southern Baptists were starting the year. It was the first month of a new fiscal year running from October 1 through September 30, 1973.

In addition to the \$2.7 million contributed through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists gave \$342,393 during the month to specific, designated mission causes.

The designated gifts accounted for an even bigger percentage increase. Compared to designated gifts of October, 1971, designations for the same month this year were up \$127,837 or 59.5 per cent.

Grand total gifts, including both Cooperative Program and designated contributions, reached \$3,057,448, an increase of \$345,250, or 12.7 per cent over gifts for the same period in 1971.

The amounts included in the financial report prepared by the SBC Executive Committee reflect contributions to national and world wide Baptist mission causes, but do not include gifts to local and state Baptist mission efforts.

-30-

Milton Ferguson Elected New  
Midwestern Seminary President

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Milton Ferguson, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, has been elected the second president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Ferguson, 44, was named to the position by unanimous vote of the board of trustees, meeting in a called session here Nov. 3, according to Carlos Bradley, chairman of the board of trustees and head of the Kansas City Terminal Elevator Co. here.

He will succeed Millard J. Berquist, who has served as president of the seminary since it opened in 1958. Berquist had planned to retire July 31, 1972, but agreed to remain as president until his successor could take office.

Ferguson will assume the position "as soon as possible, or not later than Feb. 1, 1973," said Bradley. The trustees chairman said there was a tremendous spirit of support among the trustees in the selection of Ferguson as president.

In accepting the position, Ferguson told the trustees: "I am excited about the future of Midwestern Seminary and its ministry in providing leadership for Southern Baptist churches."

Ferguson has been professor of Christian philosophy at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth since 1965, and a member of the faculty at Southwestern since 1956 when he became instructor in theology. In 1959 he was promoted to associate professor, and in 1965 to full professor.

Previously, he was pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, Hebron, Tex., and associate pastor of Crown Heights Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and Southwestern Seminary, where he earned the doctor of theology degree in 1959. He has done additional graduate study and post doctoral research at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, and Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Active in the youth evangelism movement from 1948-56, Ferguson has been a frequent speaker at state, regional and national conferences and conventions and has been a writer and contributor to many Southern Baptist publications. In recent years, he has delivered series of three to five lectures at seven different scholarly conferences.

He directed the faculty self studies at Southwestern Seminary as part of the accreditation procedures for both the American Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He has also been chairman, vice chairman or secretary of 17 different continuing committees on the seminary faculty.

During his years on the Southwestern faculty, he has been interim pastor of seven large churches in Lawton and Stillwater, Okla., Dallas, Vernon, Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, Tex.

Ferguson has received research grants from the Rockefeller Foundation's Sealantic Fund, and was a fellow of the American Association of Theological Schools, and a post-graduate research fellow at Yale University. In 1964-65, he was listed in Outstanding Young Men of America.

Southwestern Seminary, where Ferguson has taught for the past 16 years, is the world's largest evangelical-Protestant seminary, with an enrollment of 2,019 students. Midwestern Seminary is the youngest of the six seminaries owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, and has a current enrollment of 287 students.



**BAPTIST PRESS**

**460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**

**LYNN MAY HO  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
127 9TH AVE. NO.  
NASHVILLE TN 37203**

**RECEIVED  
NOV 6 1972**

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC**