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November 15, 1972

North Carolina Baptists Reach
 Compromise on Baptism Issue

By Toby Druin

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--North Carolina Baptists reaffirmed their belief in baptism by immersion, but avoided a showdown that would have ousted some churches from affiliation with the Baptist State Convention.

A standing room crowd of 3,200 messengers overwhelmingly approved a compromise motion on the controversial baptism question that had threatened to divide the convention.

At the request of M.O. Owens, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C., the convention approved a resolution affirming its belief in baptism by immersion, and requesting any churches differing with that view to reconsider the matter in the interest of harmony.

The convention authorized appointment of an 11-member committee of both "liberals" and "conservatives" to take the resolution to about 20 churches now accepting members from other denominations without immersion, and ask them to refrain from this practice.

The committee will report to the convention through the pages of the Biblical Recorder, the state Baptist paper, at least 60 days before the 1973 convention in Greensboro.

The compromise came after considerable parliamentary wrangling. Parliamentarian James M. Bulam of Oak Ridge, N.C., at one point said that under Roberts Rules of Order, the entire action was out of order, but the convention reaffirmed its action at the request of President Tom Freeman of Dunn, N.C.

Freeman requested the compromise in his opening address to the convention. At that time the messengers faced the prospect of debate on two constitutional amendments, one authored by Owens, which would have ousted any churches from convention affiliation which have any non-immersed members.

The other amendment, proposed by Thurman Allred of Concord, N.C., would have restricted the convention messengers to only those who have been immersed. Allred withdrew his amendment Tuesday, and Owens followed suit the next day after first offering his resolution on the compromise.

In 1971 the convention gave a 53.5 per cent majority approval to a similar amendment offered by Owens, but the amendment failed because of constitutional requirements for a two-thirds majority for all amendments.

Owens' resolution was overwhelmingly approved, but only after the wording was softened. His first draft referred to those who do not practice immersion as "erring churches." Efforts were made to delete the phrase, to change it to "deviating churches," but the messengers finally agreed on the term "differing" churches.

In other action, the convention approved without change a report of a special committee on the relationship between the convention and its Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

The report offered six recommendations which asked chiefly that the convention-hospital relationship be maintained, establishment of a medical center board to coordinate the relationship between the hospital and Bowman Gray School of Medicine, restricting the annual Mother's Day offering for charity care only at the hospital, and upgrading the status of the hospital's School of Pastoral Care.

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Eight resolutions were adopted on such varied subjects as tax reform, support of public schools, chaplains for state schools for juvenile delinquents, keeping Sunday for religious purposes, public kindergardens for all five-year-olds, denying tax funds for parochial and private schools, and support of stronger laws to control drinking drivers.

The resolution on tax reform put the convention on record against elimination of tax deductions for gifts to churches and for housing allowances for ministers.

A record budget of \$8.5 million for 1973 was approved, an increase of \$750,000 over 1972's budget, and loan requests totalling \$1.6 million were approved. The loans would be used to meet three requests for additional college housing, a \$600,000 addition to the Baptist Building in Raleigh, and renovation of facilities at the convention's seashore assembly.

Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dunn, N.C., was re-elected president.

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Oklahoma Convention Elect s
Scantlan, Urges Peace Prayer

11/15/72

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma for the first time elected a retired minister as president, and adopted resolutions urging prayer for President Nixon's peace efforts, and commending churches and individuals for working to bring people closer to Christian love and mutual respect among all races.

Elected president of the convention was Sam W. Scantlan, 71, retired secretary of state missions for the convention and former pastor of several Oklahoma churches.

The only major business action was election of the president, and adoption of a record Cooperative Program budget of \$4.3 million for 1973. The new budget allocates a new percentage between state and Southern Baptists causes, 60 per cent to state and 40 per cent to SBC causes.

Although the budget last year allocates 43 per cent to SBC causes, the actual amount going to SBC causes will increase by more than \$230,000, if the budget is met.

Although the convention provided an additional miscellaneous business session, the schedule was unnecessary since no new business was introduced from the floor.

Seven resolutions were approved, including one assuring President Nixon of Oklahoma Baptists' determination to pray for him and his administration in their attempt to bring honorable peace to the world.

Another resolution commended individuals and churches and institutions which are working to bring people of all races closer to the ideal of Christian love and mutual respect.

Other resolutions reaffirmed the convention's position on the principle of separation of church and state as adopted in earlier sessions, and commended the Sooner Alcohol Narcotics Education, Inc. (SANE) for its leadership in helping defeat a state proposal to allow liquor franchising and liquor by the drink.

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Webb Resigns Georgia PR
Post to Return to Church

11/15/72

ATLANTA (BP)--Lawrence E. Webb, secretary of public relations for the Georgia Baptist Convention, has resigned to become minister of education for First Baptist Church, Sanford, Fla., effective Dec. 8.

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Webb has held the Georgia public relations position since 1968, previously serving as news director and instructor in journalism and Bible at Anderson College, Anderson, S.C. He also has been minister of education and associate pastor of Pope Drive Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C.

A native of Texas, he is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He also has studied at the University of Maine.

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Treadway Will Aid SBC
Churches in Deacon Ministry

11/15/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--A 20-year employee of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has been named pastoral ministries consultant specializing in deacon ministry for the church administration department.

Charles F. Treadway, deacon ministries consultant, will be responsible for planning, promoting and conducting field service projects designed to help deacons become more effective leaders in several areas.

These areas include leadership, proclamation, pastoral care, deacon ministry, summer youth program and associational leadership.

"In recent years, some of the greatest growth and interest in the Baptist denomination has been in deacon ministry," said Ernest Mosley, supervisor, church ministries section, church administration department.

"Because of this interest in deacon work, Charles Treadway has been asked to give major attention to this area," Mosley said. "As contact person at the board in the deacon area, he will aid deacons and pastors by conducting conferences, retreats, workshops and also through personal consultation. Through these various functions, he will interpret the Biblical concept of deacon work and show church leaders how to use deacons more effectively for the church."

Treadway will emphasize three major areas of concern to deacons: the deacon's participation in the total life of the church, the deacon as a minister of the church family and the deacon in evangelism.

A native of Mississippi, Treadway is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton. He earned the doctor of theology degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Ordained to the ministry in 1935, Treadway held pastorates in Mississippi and Kentucky for 17 years. Prior to becoming editor of the board's Vacation Bible School materials in 1952, he was pastor for eight years at First Baptist Church, Cleveland, and two years at First Baptist Church, Columbia, both in Mississippi. He has served in the Sunday School department as supervisor of Weekday and Vacation Bible School unit and as general administration consultant before assuming his present position.

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