

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 7, 1974

**Baptist Body Declares Its
Position on Equal Rights**

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semiannual session here took action on equal rights for all persons, integrity in government and tax policies affecting churches and religious institutions.

Maintained in the nation's capital by eight Baptist denominations in the United States, including the Southern Baptist Convention, and one in Canada, the Baptist Joint Committee is instructed "to act in the field of public affairs whenever the interests or rights of the cooperating conventions" become involved. James E. Wood Jr. is executive director of the committee.

Although Baptists and the Baptist Joint Committee have historically defended religious liberty for all and have stood for human and civil rights, for the first time the committee voted on a comprehensive policy position on equal rights.

In response to a recommendation by Wood, it was voted "that the committee affirm the equality of all persons under law without respect to race, religion, color, sex, or national origin."

The committee felt that in taking this action it was implementing the long-held views by Baptists on religious liberty, human dignity and justice for all people. "Baptist witness to the gospel in public affairs is greatly enhanced by this step," said Wood in commenting on the committee's position.

Following up on earlier action by the Baptist Joint Committee, it went a step further and approved affiliation with the newly formed Religious Committee for Integrity in Government. In October, 1973, the Baptist Joint Committee issued "a statement of concern" about the widespread scandals in government and abuse of political power revealed in the Watergate affairs.

More recently 19 religious leaders of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and other groups and denominations formed a non-partisan interfaith committee of Washington-based religious staff persons to work toward integrity in government. The Baptist Joint Committee is now an official member of this coalition.

Five initial objectives of the Religious Committee for Integrity in Government are: (1) clarification of moral issues in the present crisis in government, (2) justice for the President and the American people and an orderly inquiry as to whether grounds exist for the impeachment of the President, (3) campaign reforms, (4) restoration of constitutional checks and balances in the federal government and (5) clarification of moral issues in the coming elections in 1974 and 1976.

In the face of increasing questions concerning the churches and taxation, the Baptist Joint Committee instructed its staff to prepare a position paper on the subject of tax-exempt organizations. To be included in this study will be views on the Internal Revenue Service rule on the percentage of budgets allocated to so-called lobbying activities and other problems relating to continuation of tax exempt status.

The tax status of churches, religious and other charitable agencies has increasingly been questioned in recent years. The Baptist Joint Committee sponsored a national religious liberty conference in 1960 on "The Churches and American Tax Policies."

Several similar consultations have taken place in the states on the same subject.

Religious agencies and institutions have been investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, some have had their tax status challenged and others have cases pending in the courts.

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In 1969, the Baptist Joint Committee issued a policy statement on the taxation of church property, which declared: "Any claim which churches may make for exemption from the payment of taxes or for special tax status must be based on either (1) the concept of religious liberty or (2) the concepts of equality or equity."

The new attempt to arrive at a policy position by the Baptist Joint Committee on taxation will be much more comprehensive than anything it has stated in the past.

In other actions at its semiannual meeting the Baptist Joint Committee:

--Set October 7-9, 1974 as its 35th anniversary meeting and instructed its staff to prepare an appropriate observance of the event;

--Expressed concern that the public did not yet understand the Supreme Court's decisions on prayer and Bible reading in public schools. (The committee instructed the staff to continue its efforts in explaining these decisions and in making positive suggestions toward the proper relationships between religion and public education.) ;

--Passed resolutions of appreciation for four former members of the Baptist Joint Committee for their long years of service to the committee (Alma Hunt, Southern Baptist, 16 years, Theodore F. Adams, Southern Baptist, eight years, Francis Hensley, American Baptist, eight years, and Homer Tucker, American Baptist, 10 years); and

--Recognized that the assignment to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was complex and far-reaching, and voted that the staff continue to give top priority to issues relating to religious liberty and separation of church and state. This was interpreted to mean a reaffirmation of the continuing activity of the staff in public issues as assigned to the committee by the sponsoring denominations.

Two highlights of the meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs were "off the record" meetings with Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.) and Jerome Ziefman, general counsel for the House Committee on the Judiciary. Bayh discussed three proposed constitutional amendments: prayer amendment, anti-abortion amendment and anti-busing amendment.

Ziefman explained the procedures being followed by the House Judiciary Committee in the impeachment investigation of President Nixon.

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Music Premieres, New
Hymnal to Bow in Dallas

3/7/74

DALLAS (BP)--Two music premieres and the first public announcement of the contents of the new Baptist Hymnal (1975 edition) will be among features of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference here June 9-10, 1974, during the week of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The conference of Southern Baptist musicians will open with a "Service of Praise," at 6 p.m. on Sunday evening at Park Cities Baptist Church, here. Leading the service will be the Centurymen, under the direction of Buryl Red, New York; concert artists Robert Hale and Dean Wilder, both members of the New York City Opera; and the Dallas Baptist College Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Doug Smith.

Among highlights on Monday morning will be a keynote address, "Worship as Event," by John Claypool, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth and former president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The premier of a new children's musical, "Jonah's Tale of Whale," from Robert Graham and Broadman Press, Nashville, will be presented by The Children's Choir of First Baptist Church, Garland, Tex., under the direction of Harrell Slack.

Rick Powell, composer-arranger and producer from Nashville, will discuss "Electronic Music and the Church," also during the Monday morning session.

Also, the Baptist musicians' conference executive council and newly-elected vice-presidents will be presented, along with awarding of honorary memberships.

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Several features will keynote the Monday afternoon session, also in The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel, including a "tribute to Jane Marshall," (Mrs. Elbert), a composer of sacred music, by The Sanctuary Choir of First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla., singing her compositions under the direction of James Woodward.

During the same session, William J. Reynolds, director of the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, and chairman of the Hymnal Revision Committee, will unveil the contents of the new Baptist Hymnal (1975 edition). This will be the first public announcement of the new hymnal's contents, Reynolds said.

Another Monday afternoon feature will be "Interest Sessions," to include emphases on children's choirs, with a demonstration of music-learning activities with children from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary children's choir school. Other emphases of the interest sessions will be on contemporary worship, adult choirs, music and worship, and instrumental music. New materials and methods in church music will be exhibited.

The Monday evening session will move to Southwestern Seminary for a banquet honoring music missionaries in the Robert E. Naylor Student Center.

Entertainment for the banquet will be provided by the School of Church Music faculty at Southwestern Seminary. Speaker for the event will be Jesse Fletcher, director of the mission support division, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

The final session on Monday evening will be held in Truett Auditorium, also at Southwestern Seminary, where the W. Hines Sims Achievement Award for distinguished service to the cause of church music will be presented to Warren M. Angell, dean emeritus of Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, and a longtime, prominent Southern Baptist musician.

The evening will feature music, including the premier performance of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference commissioned anthem for 1974--"Praise God in His Holiness"--by composer James Cram, of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., to be sung by the Oratorio Chorus of Southwestern Seminary.

The conference will conclude Monday evening with a concert, "Belshazzar's Feast," (by William Walton), to be presented by the Oratorio Chorus of Southwestern Seminary and by the Fort Worth Oratorio Symphony. The anthem and concert will be under the direction of Robert Burton.

1973-74 officers of the conference include Don Brown, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., president; Dewey Kyle of Birmingham, Ala., vice president, local church division; Paul Bobbitt, Jacksonville, Fla., vice president, denominational division; Hugh T. McElrath, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., vice president, educational division; and Mary June Tabor of Oklahoma City, Okla., secretary-treasurer.

Southern Baptist Church Music Conference
Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas/
The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel/
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth
June 8-10, 1974

Saturday Evening--The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel

8:00 Executive Council pre-conference planning meeting

Sunday Afternoon--The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel

Executive Council dinner (council and wives, past presidents and wives), Carriage Club

Sunday Evening--Park Cities Baptist Church

6:00 "A Service of Praise"--The Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red, New York; concert artists Robert Hale and Dean Wilder, New York City Opera; The Dallas (Tex.) Baptist College Wind Ensemble, directed by Doug Smith
Don Brown, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., presiding
John F. Gardner, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., coordinator

8:30 Fellowship period, exhibit area, The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel--Hosted by Church Music Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas

Monday Morning--The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel

Don Brown, presiding
Beryl Vick, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., coordinator
Roy Lee Williams, Houston, Tex., timekeeper

8:00 Registration

8:30 Call to Order

Hymn

Invocation--Paul McCommon, Georgia Baptist Convention

8:35 Welcome--Sam Prestidge, Baptist General Convention of Texas

8:40 "Electronic Music and the Church"--Rick Powell, composer-arranger-producer, Nashville, Tenn.

9:25 Introduction of Executive Council

Presentation of newly-elected vice presidents

Awarding of Honorary Memberships

9:35 Address: "Worship As Event"--John Claypool, pastor, Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

10:00 Exhibit Break

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Paul Bobbitt, Florida Baptist Convention, presiding

Bill Leach, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., coordinator

Marvin Spry, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

10:25 "News from Broadman Press"--Loren Williams, Music Sales Specialist, Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn.

10:40 Conference Business Sessions

Registration and Membership Report

Final consideration of constitutional amendments

Resolutions committee report

11:05 "Jonah's Tale of a Whale"--The Children's Choir, First Baptist Church, Garland, Tex., directed by Harrell Slack

11:45 Lunch

Monday Afternoon--The Sheraton-Dallas Hotel

Hugh T. McElrath, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., presiding
Claude L. Bass, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., coordinator
Donald Winters, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., timekeeper

- 1:00 "A Tribute to Jane Marshall"--The Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla., directed by James Woodward
1:50 "Baptist Hymnal (1975 Edition)"--William J. Reynolds, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and the Hymnal Revision Committee
2:25 Exhibit Break
2:55 Interest Sessions--
 Emphasis: Children's Choirs--Mrs. Evelyn Phillips and children from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Children's Choir School, Fort Worth, Tex.
 Emphasis: Contemporary Worship--Beryl Vick, convener; "The Church and Electronic Music"--Rick Powell
 Emphasis: The Adult Choir--Marvin Spry, convener; "Vocal Techniques in the Choral Rehearsal"--James Woodward and the Sanctuary Choir, First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.
 Emphasis: Music and Worship--Donald Winters, convener; "Music, Worship and New Directions in Congregational Involvement"--Sponsored by the Education Division, Hugh T. McElrath
 Emphasis: Instrumental Music--Carl Perry, First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., convener; "Using Instruments in the Worship Service"--Doug Smith and the Dallas Baptist College Brass Quintet
 Emphasis: New Materials and Methods--(exhibits)
3:50 Division Meetings
 Local Church Division--Dewey Kyle, Huffman Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., presiding
 Education Division--Hugh McElrath, presiding
 Denominational Division--Paul Bobbitt, presiding
4:30 Adjourn Division Meetings
5:15 Buses begin leaving the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel for Fort Worth

Monday Evening--Robert E. Naylor Student Center, Southwestern Seminary

Dewey Kyle, presiding
Paul Welleford, Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., coordinator

- 6:45 Banquet (in honor of music missionaries)--Music by Southwestern Seminary School of Church Music faculty; Speaker, Jesse Fletcher, director, Mission Support Division, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

Monday Evening--Truett Auditorium, Southwestern Seminary

- 8:15 Don Brown, presiding
Hines Sims Achievement Award presentation by Gene Bartlett, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to Warren M. Angell, dean emeritus, Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.
"Praise God in His Holiness"--Premiere performance of the SBCMC commissioned anthem for 1974, composer James Cram, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., sung by Oratorio Chorus, Southwestern Seminary, Robert Burton, conductor
Concert: "Belshazzar's Feast"--Composer William Walton, presented by the Southwestern Seminary Oratorio Chorus and the Fort Worth Oratorio Symphony, Robert Burton, conductor

Tuesday Morning (June 11)

- 7:30 Exhibitors Breakfast
9:30 Evaluating and Planning Session (old and new councils)