

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 18, 1974

New Mex. Baptists Set
Budget; Elect O'Brien

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of New Mexico, meeting at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center here, voted a record \$1.7 million annual budget and elected Chester O'Brien of Amarillo, Tex., as the convention's new executive director.

O'Brien, 50, superintendent of missions for the Amarillo Baptist Association of churches for the past nine years, will begin Jan. 1, succeeding R. Y. Bradford, who steps down Jan. 15. The convention honored Bradford.

A native of Fort Worth, Tex., O'Brien has been pastor of churches in Amarillo and Tucumcari N.M.

In other action, registered "messengers" passed resolutions commending the state's governor, Bruce King, a Southern Baptist from Stanley, N.M., for his Christian example in office and warned against moral problems, including increasing availability of alcoholic beverages, lowering of the state's drinking age, legalization of additional forms of gambling in the state, possible legalization of marijuana, the probability of hard drugs becoming more available, efforts to prevent passage of desired state laws for the control of hard core pornography and continued efforts in the state to breach the walls of separation between church and state by providing public assistance to private education.

Of the \$1.7 million budget, some \$815,743 is expected from New Mexico churches through the state's unified Cooperative Program budget, with the balance to come from sources such as supplements from the Southern Baptist Home and Sunday School Boards.

Some \$210,448 of the \$815,743 will go to worldwide missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program.

A convention spokesman said receipts from New Mexico's Southern Baptist churches have averaged \$68,250 a month for the first 10 months of 1974, resulting in \$97,232 in excess of this year's originally-planned budget. Consequently, he said, contributions through the SBC's Cooperative Program are "already 15 percent higher than they were the entire last year."

Messengers also elected C.L. Bowe, a San Jon rancher, as convention president and announced next year's convention site as Tucumcari, N.M., Nov. 4-6.

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(BP) Photo of Chester O'Brien will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Tenn. Baptists Deplore TV
Violence; Vote Aging Ministry

11/18/74

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (BP)--Commemorating its centennial year, the Tennessee Baptist Convention voted to establish a new statewide ministry on aging, elected its first woman convention officer and spoke out against violence on television.

More than 1,700 "messengers" registered for the annual meeting of Tennessee Baptists, held in the Murphy Athletic Center at Middle Tennessee State University here, in the city where the state convention was organized 100 years ago.

Messengers elected H. Eugene Cotey, the pastor of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, as president for 1974-75, succeeding Grant L. Jones, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Sevierville, Tenn.

And the convention elected its first woman officer, naming Willodene (Mrs. Bob) Peek of Athens, Tenn., as second vice president. Mrs. Peek, a pastor's wife, was also elected president a fourth time of the state Woman's Missionary Union at the Tennessee annual WMU meeting, held in conjunction with the convention's annual meeting.

The convention approved a 1975 Cooperative Program (unified budget of Southern Baptists) of \$7.6 million, with one-third to go to national Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes.

Messengers also approved the charter for the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, which will include services and facilities for a ministry to the aging, along with other religious, charitable and educational activities. The convention's committee on boards also named a 15-member board for the corporation.

Land for the first development of a ministry to the aging by Tennessee Baptists has already been given by Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Catlett of Danridge, Tenn., who donated 175 acres on Douglas Lake between Dandridge and Newport. The property is valued at \$2 million, according to a convention spokesman.

In other action, messengers approved a resolution expressing their "disapproval to the television networks for their willingness to depict violence. . . in the homes of American citizens."

The resolution noted, "It seems apparent that the television industry seems to live under the delusion that television advertising will produce sales but that violence on television will not affect an audience."

Calling the networks' stance on television violence "incomprehensible," the resolution urged that "concerned citizens let the American Broadcasting Co., the National Broadcasting Co., and the Columbia Broadcasting Co., know about their disapproval" and particularly deplored the showing of the Godfather, an Academy Award winning film edited for television, on November 16 and 18.

"We urgently recommend," the Tennessee Baptists said, "that since the television industry has no apparent morality toward programming, that American citizens exercise their option and turn the television off at home and notify the sponsoring agencies of your action."

The 1975 Tennessee Baptist Convention will meet November 11-13 at First Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

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W. Va. Baptists Plan Long
Range; Adopt Budget

11/18/74

BLUEFIELD, W. Va. (BP)--Ninety-seven registered "messengers" to the four-year-old West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists adopted a long-range planning report and set a \$345,000 budget during the convention's annual meeting here.

Messengers also re-elected Carlisle Driggers, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Morgantown, as president and changed convention by-laws to eliminate a 60-day waiting requirement for churches asking to affiliate with the convention.

The long-range planning report, which extends through 1979, will project a theme of "Growing Churches and Sharing Christ's Love."

West Virginia Baptist churches will provide \$176,573 of the total budget through the state Cooperative Program unified budget, with 22 percent of that amount ticketed for world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program.

Remainder of the \$345,000 budget will come from supplements from the SBC Home and Sunday School Boards and other sources.

Next year's convention is set, Nov. 14-15, First Baptist Church, Fairlea, W. Va.

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**Utah-Idaho Baptists Set
Budget; Celebrate 10 Years**

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (BP)--The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, celebrating its 10th anniversary in its annual session here, adopted a budget 25 percent higher than last year's and elected Chester Bunch, pastor of Holladay Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, as its sixth president.

Registered "messengers" approved a \$417,415 budget and heard a report from the state convention's executive secretary-treasurer, Darwin E. Welsh, that the convention, since its organization, has grown from 50 churches with 6,479 members to 63 churches with 11,321 members.

A convention spokesman said \$109,233 of the record budget is expected from churches in Utah and southern Idaho through the state Cooperative Program unified budget. The remainder comes from such sources as supplements from the SBC Home and Sunday School Boards. Twenty percent of the \$109,233 will go to world missions through the SBC's national Cooperative Program.

In other action, messengers soundly defeated, a convention spokesman said, a motion to exclude pastors and their wives, who receive church pastoral aid from the SBC Home Mission Board, from membership on the convention's executive board.

Arthur Rutledge, Home Mission Board executive director, told the messengers that the SBC's "pioneer movement," which has thrust it into all 50 states, including territory covered by the Utah-Idaho convention, has changed the SBC's lifestyle in the past 30 years.

"The pioneer movement has brought new streams of excitement, challenge and opportunity, and the change, as I read it, is all to the good," he said.

Next year's convention is set Nov. 11-12, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

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**Mich. Baptists Adopt Record
Budget; Vote New Location**

11/18/74

INKSTER, Mich. (BP)--Michigan Baptists, reporting a record 674 registered "messengers" and visitors, adopted their first budget of more than \$1 million, voted to purchase a new convention office building and urged Southern Baptists to confront the problem of world hunger.

In their 18th annual meeting, described as "harmonious" and "full of enthusiasm," the Baptist State Convention of Michigan also urged local churches to make pastoral and staff support a priority in their budgets.

The recommendation came following a report, based on a two-year study, revealing that salaries were low, on the average, for Michigan (comparably) by about 25 percent.

A committee will study the salary structure of the convention staff and report back in 1975.

The messengers re-elected the entire slate of 1974 convention officers, with Billy Witt, pastor of Columbia Avenue Baptist Church in Pontiac, as president.

Of the record budget of \$1,193,205, some \$472,205 is expected from churches through the state's 1975 Cooperative Program unified budget. The remainder will come from supplements from such sources as the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School Boards. Twenty-two percent of the Cooperative Program receipts were earmarked to go to national Southern Baptist causes, a percentage increase of one-half percent over 1974.

The convention's new building, which it will occupy as of April 1, is a five-year-old structure on the northwest edge of metropolitan Detroit and will cost \$288,000.

In other action, the convention voted to participate in the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program. In conjunction, the Michigan convention adopted its proportionate share (some \$540,000) of the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative

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Program goal of \$150 million.

Michigan Baptists also adopted a resolution calling on Southern Baptists to help meet the needs of those suffering famine and starvation in many parts of the world, through the Baptist World Alliance, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board or "other avenues that would be in accord with the missionary spirit of Southern Baptists."

Another resolution noted that the nation is "passing through a crisis time" and encouraged people to "pray for our president and Congress and for our governor and state legislature."

The resolution further admonished that "we determine as best we can to be loyal citizens of our country and carry out as fully as we possibly can the request of our president in conservation and other vital national interests."

The convention also voted to involve themselves in a year of stewardship emphasis with the help of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, for the year 1974-75.

The 1975 annual session will move for the first time to the upper peninsula of Michigan, meeting at Harvey Baptist Church, near Marquette, November 11-13.

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S.C. Baptists Set Federal Aide Guidelines for Schools

11/18/74

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--Registered "messengers" to the 154th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention adopted a record \$6.9 million budget, set up guidelines for the use of federal money for their four colleges and approved construction of a conference center.

The convention accepted the report of the South Carolina general board's federal funding study committee, which set up guidelines for use of federal funds by colleges and created a watchdog committee to oversee.

The federal aid controversy has come up periodically in the South Carolina convention over the years. Each of the four Baptist schools affiliated with the convention accept some forms of federal aid--some acceptable to S.C. Baptists, some controversial.

The committee was named to work with the trustees of the schools to help them deal with debatable areas of federal aid acceptance, according to reports.

The accepted report recommends use of government funds "with discrimination and upon proper safeguards." It limits use of government funds to non-religious and non-sectarian purposes of the institutions and it prohibits acceptance of funds that would lead to "intolerable or undue elements of government control."

The report noted that, for Baptist schools, "the future is dismal without some government assistance. . ."

Generally, over the years, South Carolina Baptists have found federal construction loans and grants, for services rendered, acceptable, and aid direct to students has created little question, a spokesman said. However, the previous convention position was not clear and the report, accepted by messengers, attempted to clarify it for the future.

The adopted \$6.9 million budget provides 34 percent for world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget. Coupled with the rest of the South Carolina budget is an \$8 million challenge goal for the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program.

Messengers also gave nearly unanimous approval to the purchase of 740 acres of land for \$367,695 on which to build a conference center about 25 miles northwest of Columbia.

Hovie D. Revis, pastor of South Mainstreet Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., was elected president. He was elevated from the first vice presidency and is immediate past president of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Next year's convention will meet Nov. 11-13, Greenville, S.C.

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