

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

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, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1998**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461**RICHMOND** Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

November 19, 1975

75-182

**Northwest Body Discusses
Doctrinal Relations and Canada**

DELTA, B.C., Canada (BP)--The Northwest Baptist Convention voted a record budget, heard a challenge on seating messengers from two churches and passed a resolution on Southern Baptist relationships in Canada at the convention's annual meeting here.

The credentials committee recommended that messengers from two churches not be allowed to register until "differences in understanding and practicing doctrinal statements of the convention" are resolved.

First Baptist Church, Bothell, Wash., reportedly disagrees with a doctrinal requirement disallowing acceptance of members baptized by immersion in non-Baptist churches, and Grace Baptist Church, Sumner, Wash., reportedly disagrees with policy against observing communion with non-Baptists. Both reportedly were not seated by their local association, the Puget Sound Baptist Association, for the same reasons.

Meeting in Canada, the convention spoke indirectly in a resolution to a historical issue involving prohibition in the Southern Baptist Convention's constitution against seating messengers to the national SBC meeting from outside the U. S. or its territories and of providing direct service from SBC agencies to churches outside these areas.

The resolution said, ". . . we rejoice in the continuing willingness of the churches of the Northwest Baptist Convention not to allow state, provincial, or national boundaries to limit our response to requests for fellowship from like-minded churches."

It resolved to "encourage all Baptist bodies in which our churches fellowship to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the needs of people in propagating the gospel to the ends of the earth without limitation from comity agreements, written or implied."

"We are not attempting to make a big issue but simply want to maintain our long-time position in the matter," a Northwest Convention spokesman said. "We don't feel there should be any agreements or understandings which limit spreading of the gospel anywhere in the world. We do not feel that the existence of a Baptist witness in a nation should eliminate direct participation by the Southern Baptist Convention or assistance to churches which would share Southern Baptist concepts of programs, missions and evangelism."

The Northwest Baptist Convention, which covers Oregon, Washington and northern Idaho, also has 25 churches in Canada. They are affiliated with the Northwest Convention but are not eligible under the SBC constitution to be considered as Southern Baptist churches. Historically, also, the SBC Foreign Mission Board, which has work in more than 80 countries, has not sent missionaries into Canada.

In addition to several small Baptist bodies, which have some churches on both sides of the Canadian-U. S. border, three major Baptist bodies have work in Canada, totalling 1,311 churches with over 150,700 members. They are the Baptist Federation of Canada, with 132,760 members in 1,150 churches, which works entirely inside Canada, and the Baptist General Conference and the North American General Conference, which have churches in both countries.

In other action, messengers to the Northwest Baptist Convention re-elected William O. Crews, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Portland, as president and set a \$1,281,843 budget, of which \$640,000 is expected from Northwest convention churches

through the state's Cooperative Program unified budget. Twenty-six percent of the Cooperative Program figure, a one percent increase over last year, will go to worldwide causes through the SBC's national Cooperative Program. The balance of the budget will come from such sources as the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School Boards.

The 1976 convention will be Nov. 9-11 in Pendleton, Oregon.

-30-

W. Va. Baptists Call
Family Viewing 'Inadequate'

Baptist Press
11/19/75

FAIRLEA, W. Va. (BP)--The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, meeting here, passed a resolution expressing appreciation for the "family viewing time" concept advocated by the national television networks but declared that it is "inadequate" to solve the problems of violence and sex on television.

The convention noted that it "plans to do all possible to see that violence, sex and lewd language are deleted from all TV programming."

The family viewing time concept provides that the networks and stations involved will refrain from broadcasting programs "inappropriate for viewing by general family audiences" during the first two evening prime time hours but makes no allowances for policing other viewing hours.

In other action, registered messengers to the West Virginia Baptist body elected a layman as president, set a record budget of \$435,548 and defeated a motion to change the constitution to allow district associations of churches more freedom in naming state convention executive board members.

R. Wellington Johnson, a member of First Baptist Church, Fairlea, who had succeeded to the convention's presidency from his first vice presidential post during the proceeding year, was elected in his own right. He had succeeded Carlisle Driggers, pastor from Morgantown, W. Va., who moved out of state to accept a post with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The \$435,548 budget, a 32.5 percent increase over the previous year, includes a goal of \$231,331 in Cooperative Program unified budget receipts from West Virginia Convention churches. Messengers allotted 22.5 percent of that amount to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program. The percentage to SBC causes has increased one-half percent per year since the convention's formation in 1970. The balance of the budget will come from such sources as the SBC Home Mission and Sunday School Boards.

The 1976 convention will be held Nov. 4-6, at Fairlawn Baptist Church, Parkersburg, W. Va.

-30-