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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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76-85

**SBC Exec. Com. Urged To  
Reconsider Budget Request**

MEMPHIS (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Brotherhood Commission called on the denomination's Executive Committee to reconsider its recommendation to distribute \$3,920,000 in 1976-77 Cooperative Program challenge funds among only nine SBC agencies.

The trustees, meeting here, asked the Executive Committee, which meets Monday, June 14, prior to the 119th annual SBC meeting in Norfolk, June 15-17, to extend a share of the amount to all 19 agencies.

Elected "messengers" to the SBC will vote on a proposed \$55 million national Cooperative Program unified budget, including \$49 million in basic operating funds for all SBC causes, \$1,080,000 in capital needs funds, and the remaining \$4,920,000 in challenge funds.

The first phase of the challenge funds--\$1 million--would be divided proportionately for all SBC causes among all the agencies, with the remaining \$3.9 million going, in phase two, only to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Radio and Television Commission and the six SBC theological seminaries.

"Southern Baptists view the Cooperative Program concept as an opportunity to give to everything that Baptists do," said Brotherhood Commission trustee Everett Lemay of Mt. Vernon, Ill., a Baptist preacher and former Executive Committee member.

Lemay, who was elected a commission trustee last year, contended the Executive Committee was attempting in the recommendation to designate to a few causes what Southern Baptists intended to give to all causes.

The Illinois preacher, who got unanimous endorsement of his proposal, said that during the last three years, in which the Southern Baptist Convention has distributed all gifts through the Cooperative Program on a percentage basis to all causes, giving has increased almost 50 percent.

"I'm also aware that giving through united funds in communities has generally declined when groups get special treatment or are permitted to raise funds of their own.

"In my opinion, this recommendation would deny Southern Baptists an opportunity to give to all Southern Baptist Convention causes and weaken the Cooperative Program concept."

Charles Harvey of Shreveport, La., chairman of the Executive Committee, and Porter Routh of Nashville, the committee's executive secretary, both said the Executive Committee "is always ready to study any recommendation by any agency."

Routh said, "No attempt is being made to prevent Southern Baptists from giving to all causes." He said the overall proposal would distribute \$50 million (basic and phase one) among all causes, with only phase two selecting certain agencies on the basis of greatest unmet needs.

"And SBC messengers vote on any Cooperative Program budget six or seven months before any money is given. All church members would have full information about allocations by the SBC before giving any money," he said.

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"The SBC's bylaws require that the Executive Committee recommend a definite amount of money for each agency, not a percentage," Harvey said.

"The amount to be recommended for the Brotherhood Commission reflects a 16 percent increase over the amount allocated for 1975-76," continued the Shreveport pastor. "This is given a priority in the first \$49 million of the budget.

"The possibility of getting the final \$3,920,000 in phase two of the challenge budget is not great, so the agencies were included which have the greatest unmet needs. If the Brotherhood desires to have some of its \$475,000 proposed allocation in phase two, rather than the basic budget, that could be considered."

Harvey's statement about the possibility of phase two not being reached refers to current estimates which indicate that the Cooperative Program, in 1975-76 would collect about \$47 million at the present giving pace.

That is well over basic and capital needs requirements of \$42,020,000 but short of the total \$51 million 1975-76 budget, which includes \$8,080,000 in challenge funds above the \$42,020,000.

To reach the full basic operating and capital needs and phase one of challenge funds in 1976-77, Southern Baptists would have to give \$51,080,000. The remaining \$3,920,000 in phase two may not be reached.

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#### Wrapup

Agency Projects Surplus,  
Approves Reorganization

Baptist Press  
5/18/76

MEMPHIS (BP)--Encouraged by reports of a projected \$106,000 surplus in operating funds, trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved a staff reorganizational plan adding six new staff positions and a 12-month budget of \$1,582,000 to support it.

The new budget, up \$137,392 or 9 percent, provides for a World Missions Conference director, a director of Pioneer Royal Ambassadors, a Baptist Men's consultant, a business section director and two editorial workers.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Commission, called the action the first step in broadening and improving services for involving men and boys in missions in 33 state Baptist conventions, 1196 Baptist associations, and 34,902 Southern Baptist churches in 50 states.

In other action the trustees unanimously requested the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to broaden its 1976-77 budget allocation recommendations and distribute a portion of all of the budget's challenge funds to all eligible agencies.

The budget recommendation calls for all agencies to share in a \$49,000,000 operating budget and a first phase challenge budget of \$1,000,000, but not a second phase challenge budget of \$3,920,000. The total 1976-77 budget is \$55 million (including \$1,080,000 in capital needs).

The SBC Executive Committee recommends dividing the second phase challenge budget among the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission and six seminaries.

Commission trustees, responding unanimously to a motion by Everett Lemay, pastor from Mt. Vernon, Ill., asked the Executive Committee to reconsider its recommendation at its meeting, Monday, June 14, in Norfolk, the day before SBC messengers are scheduled to consider the 1976-77 budget.

The Illinois pastor, a former member of the Executive Committee, contended that the Executive Committee was attempting to designate to a few causes what Southern Baptists intended to give to all causes.

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He said that during the last three years, in which the SBC began distributing all gifts through the Cooperative Program on a percentage basis to all causes, giving has increased almost 50 percent.

"Southern Baptists view the Cooperative Program concept as an opportunity to give to everything that Baptists do," he said, noting that the current recommendation would "weaken the Cooperative Program concept."

Charles Harvey, Executive Committee chairman, and Porter Routh, Executive Committee executive secretary, said the Executive Committee "is always ready to study any recommendation by any agency."

Routh said, "No attempt is being made to prevent Southern Baptists from giving to all causes." He said the overall proposal would distribute \$50 million (basic and phase one) among all causes, with only phase two selecting certain agencies on the basis of greatest unmet needs.

"And SBC messengers vote on any Cooperative Program budget six or seven months before any money is given. All church members would have full information about allocations by the SBC before giving any money," he said.

Harvey noted that the SBC bylaws require the Executive Committee to recommend a definite amount of money for each agency, not a percentage; that the amount recommended for the Brotherhood Commission is 16 percent over the amount allocated in 1975-76; and that since giving in 1976-77 will probably not reach as high as phase two that the agencies included were those with the greatest unmet needs.

He said that if the Brotherhood Commissions desired to have some of its proposed basic allocation of \$475,000, in phase two, rather than the basic budget, then that could be considered.

The Commission reduced its program 15 months ago, cutting its staff by 25 percent, when it became strapped for funds.

Left with an overage even after paying off over \$81,000 in debts, the trustees pegged \$79,000 of the surplus for reserves for a National Royal Ambassador Congress, periodicals subscription and promotion, and staff employment.

The staff reorganization calls for five sections--business, service, program, ministries, and communications--each headed by a director.

McCullough said Jack Childs, current director of the service division, will become director of the service section; Bob Banks, executive assistant, the director of the program section; and Norman Godfrey, executive assistant, the director of the ministries section.

The agency will seek a director of the business section immediately, but leave the position of communications section director unfilled for the present, McCullough said.

Agency trustees also approved a plan for stationing Daniel Y. Moon, a home missions consultant for Asians and internationals, at the Commission to work in lay renewal and with Royal Ambassador boys and Baptist Men's groups. Moon, a Korean employed by the Home Mission Board, will move to Memphis from San Jose, Calif.

At a dinner, the trustees honored Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, retiring executive director of the mission board, by presenting him with a personal letter from President Gerald Ford. It said in part:

" . . . One of the most cherished (freedoms) is the freedom to worship as we please. Your efforts attest to the strength we have derived from the religious freedom that has flourished in our nation since our founding. Inspired by the precepts of your faith, you have provided important direction to many of our efforts to advance both the spiritual and physical well being of your fellow citizens. Your work has been in the finest tradition of our priceless national legacy."

In other action the trustees approved 1976-77 goals in the areas of public relations, programming, growth, management, and finance. The growth goals included increasing the number of churches with Brotherhood work to 16,000, up 1,000; the number of men and boys involved in Brotherhood work to 525,000, up 50,000; and the number of Baptist associations with Brotherhood officers to 850, up 50.

At the request of McCullough, Chairman P. A. Stevens asked the agency's ministries committee to develop a long range plan for involving Southern Baptists in reducing world hunger.