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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Furman University Among  
Colleges To Be Studied**

NEW YORK, N.Y. (BP)--A Southern Baptist university is one among fourteen church-related colleges that will be studied in a project authorized by the National Council of Churches (NCC) here, according to Higher Education News Notes, published by the NCC.

The study, which will focus on the purposes and distinct contribution of church-related colleges, was launched because of the crisis faced by higher education caused by questions of "purpose and public support."

Furman University, Greenville, S. C., related to the South Carolina Baptist Convention, was selected from the 43 Southern Baptist senior colleges for the special study. Southern Baptist colleges are not related directly to the Southern Baptist Convention itself, but they are owned or sponsored by state conventions or by independent boards of trustees.

Funded by the E. Fay Campbell Lectureship Fund of the NCC, grants from denominations and a grant from the Ford Foundation, the study is scheduled for completion early in 1978. A consultation in November 1977 will bring together representatives from the 14 schools, denominational executives for higher education, consultants and members of the planning committee to discuss issues that have been addressed during the study.

Major questions to be faced during the study are: "What does and should the church-related relationship mean, both to college and to church?" "What are some of the distinctive purposes that the church-related college can serve?"

Harry E. Smith, director of the Society for Values in Higher Education, is chairman of the special study. Merrimon Cunnigim, former president of the Danforth Foundation, will serve as a consultant.

In addition to the study of the 14 colleges, the project will review several major studies by the denominations themselves relating to their programs of higher educations.

Other members of the committee planning the study are: Mary Kraetzer, associate professor of sociology, Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.; Joseph T. McMillan Jr., secretary for college relationships, United Church of Christ; Dorothy Schneider, Dean, Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa.; Douglas Sloan, associate professor of history and education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, N. Y., and William N. Lovell and Robert R. Parsonage of the NCC staff.

The other colleges included in the study are: Austin College, Presbyterian Church, US, Sherman, Tex.; College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., Roman Catholic; Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb., Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Drury College, Springfield, Mo., Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ; Goshen University, Goshen, Ind., Mennonite Church; Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich., American Baptist Churches; Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., Church of the Brethren; Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Ga., Africa Methodist Episcopal; St. Augustine's College, Raleigh, N. C., Episcopal; West Virginia Wesleyan, Buchkhannon, W. Va., United Methodist Church; Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, Lutheran Church in America; Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash., United Presbyterian Church, USA; and Seattle University, Seattle, Wash., Roman Catholic.

McDaniel To Leave Kan.-Neb.  
For Annuity Board Post

DALLAS (BP)--Pat McDaniel, executive director of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, has been named executive vice-president and chief of operations for the Southern Baptist Annuity Board here, effective August 1.

McDaniel, who has held Kansas-Nebraska Baptists' top convention post the past seven and one-half years, as operations chief will be the principle planning officer and advisor to Darold H. Morgan, Annuity Board president.

The operations position was recommended by the board's long-range planning committee several years ago "when the need comes to bear," according to Morgan.

McDaniel, a 44-year-old layman, has had extensive training and experience in banking and finance. He was a bank, and savings and loan officer in Texas before moving to Michigan to work in pioneer missions. He worked in a Flint, Mich., bank while helping to begin a mission in Owosso, a Flint suburb.

He later became assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. In 1967, McDaniel joined the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta as finance officer. While there he worked with the Kansas Convention to help direct its financial recovery after the young convention was placed under a five-man board of managers.

The Kansas Securities Commissioner placed the convention in "virtual receivership," because of a \$1.6 million deficit in its Church Loan Association, a bond writing and selling auxiliary, according to a convention spokesman.

McDaniel directed the refinancing and calling of the bonds after a successful campaign to raise the deficit, the spokesman noted. And the recovery was completed five years earlier than planned, the spokesman added.

McDaniel also led in the relocation of the convention offices from Wichita to Topeka, Kan., in the center of the two-state population. The move included construction of a \$500,000 convention office building.

The Kansas-Nebraska Convention's executive committee serves as the personnel committee and will search for McDaniel's replacement, according to convention president Doy Jones.

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Court Upholds Illinois  
Anti-Obscenity Statute

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press  
6/9/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--In yet another effort to clear up confusion over what constitutes obscenity, the U. S. Supreme Court upheld by a 5-4 margin the conviction of an Illinois man for selling sexual materials featuring sado-masochism.

Since its decision four years ago that local communities have the right to establish obscenity standards for themselves, the high court has had to deal repeatedly with cases seeking clarification. The 1973 decision, Miller v. California set up three basic guidelines to help states and municipalities deal with the obscenity question.

The court held then that obscenity could be determined: (1) If the average person would find that the allegedly obscene material, when taken as a whole, appeals to the "prurient interest;" (2) If the work depicts or describes, "in a patently offensive way," sexual conduct prohibited specifically by state law; and (3) If the material taken as a whole "lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

Four of the justices, including John Paul Stevens of Illinois, contended in a dissenting opinion to the new decision that Illinois had failed to meet those criteria in its post-Miller obscenity statute. Stevens accused the majority of five justices of abandoning the "cornerstone of the Miller decision which has guided court action over the past four years.

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Stevens said in his dissent that Illinois did "little more than pay lip service" to the Miller guidelines and is vague and unconstitutionally overboard. Illinois' statute was not sufficiently specific to convict a person for selling the materials in question, he wrote.

The high court majority, Stevens predicted, "hastens (the) ultimate downfall" of the Miller decision.

Justice Byron R. White, writing for the majority, disagreed with Stevens, saying that the Miller guidelines left the states considerable latitude in setting up their own particular categories of obscene materials. Sado-masochistic materials, including flagellation, fall into such a category, White insisted.

The case was brought by Wesley Ward, who was convicted five years ago for selling two magazines, "Bizarre World" and "Illustrated Case Histories, A Study of Sado-masochism," in violation of Illinois' anti-obscenity law. Ward was sentenced to one day in jail and fined \$200. His conviction was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Illinois' law holds that material is obscene if "considered as a whole, its predominant appeal is to prurient interest, that it is a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or excretion, and if it goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in description or representation of such matters."

The U. S. Supreme Court's new decision upholding the Illinois law does little to clarify the ongoing confusion of how to determine what is or is not obscene in any given place. Critics of the court contend that the picture will remain clouded until all legal restraints against the sale of obscene materials to adults are lifted.

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West Germans to See  
Southern Baptist Baptism

By Mike Creswell

Baptist Press  
6/9/77

CHARLESTON, S. C. (BP)--West German television cameras whirred as they recorded a common Southern sight--a Southern Baptist baptismal service.

The scene was at Charleston's Ashley River Church, as pastor Robert W. Major baptized seven young persons by immersion. A five-member film-and-sound crew from one of the two government-operated West German television networks recorded the event.

Eventually, the segment will become part of a yet-untitled documentary on the South to be carried by the network.

Carl Weiss, a correspondent for the network, explained that the film will try to answer the European curiosity about President Jimmy Carter by explaining the South and his Southern Baptist brand of Christianity.

"There is growing interest in this part of the United States in Germany and in Europe, obviously in connection with the election of President Carter. We want to look at what its economic and its spiritual implications may bring to the United States," Weiss said.

"It is quite clear to me that the Baptist faith has a lot to do with it. So I am filming Baptist scenes as part of the spiritual background of the President, and all the additional spirit which he seems to bring to the United States and from there to the world," he explained. Weiss is based in Washington as the American correspondent for the network.

He described the documentary as "basically political."

The 3,200-member Ashley River Church was selected after the crew contacted Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) offices in Nashville, Tenn., and asked for an SBC integrated church where they could film an actual baptism.

Robert W. Major, Ashley River pastor, said he was delighted to allow the filming, and the baptism service already was planned. Coincidentally, one of the young persons baptized was black. Ashley River has about a dozen black members, as well as several Oriental families.

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"I just felt like the testimony in the baptism service and the other things we're doing here tonight may do some real good. We're happy to have them," Major said.

The "other things" planned for the Sunday night service included a presentation of the contemporary Christian musical, "Cool in the Furnace."

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Vins Said To Be in  
"Very Poor Health"

Baptist Press  
6/9/77

KESTON, KENT, England (BP)--A letter said to be from the family of imprisoned Soviet Baptist Georgi Vins was released here that described him as "in a very poor state of health."

The letter delivered by Soviet German immigrants to the Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism here, was thought to be dated May 3, 1977.

According to the letter, Vins, who is in a USSR prison, had written on March 14 that "unnatural swelling over my whole face, the ride to the hospital with my fever, and on March 1 the strongest heart attacks, constant pain in my heart and the paralysis of my left hand all contributed to my hardly being able to sleep at night, for when I lay down my heart immediately began thumping.

"Only by staying sitting up could I get relief," Vins reportedly wrote. "Mentally, I had already taken my leave of you."

"But the Lord provided relief," he continued. Last Friday, the blood pressure had already fallen . . . I feel much better again. I believe in the power of your prayers and the prayers of God's people."

The letter from the family, which included the quotes reportedly from Vins, said they had last visited him Feb. 12-14, 1977.

On the last day, they said, Vins became seriously ill. "He got a high temperature, his blood pressure went up, and he began to get strong pains in the heart. In addition, his face swelled up."

Vins later wrote that he had been hospitalized and had three blood transfusions and 70 injections of penicillin "to keep him alive," the letter said.

The family's letter ended with a plea to pray for Vins and for his release from prison. "Please intercede for him with the authorities," the letter pleaded.

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#### CORRECTION

In the BP story of 6/9/77, headlined "Ministers' Confidentiality Bill Passes in Missouri," fifth graph, the Missouri Governor's name is Joseph P. Teasdale (instead of Christopher S. Bond).

Thanks--  
Baptist Press