

May 12, 1956

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

CENTRAL VOTES STRONG
AMERICAN GROUP TIES

KANSAS CITY, Kans.--(BP)--The directors of Central Baptist Seminary here have voted to establish strong ties between that institution and the American Baptist Convention.

Following the decision, nine Southern Baptists on the Central board of directors resigned.

Central has been an American Convention affiliate but has drawn about 60 per cent of its students from the Southern Baptist Convention and had SBC members on its directorate.

The recent decisions are that seminary directors be American Baptist Convention members and that the objective of the seminary be specifically to train leaders for the American Convention.

This may have left an uncertain future for many of 206 Southern Baptist students enrolled in the last seminary term, many of whom require additional schooling.

No SBC group gives the seminary official recognition but individual SBC sources provide about \$100,000 a year toward Central's operations.

Earlier this year, seminary directors had met with the SBC committee on theological education to discuss possible future Southern Baptist support for Central. The committee felt that Southern Baptists should not undertake joint operation of institutions with any other Baptist bodies.

Members of the directors who resigned are Earl O. Harding, executive secretary, Missouri Baptist General Association, Jefferson City; Ralph M. G. Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Kirksville, Mo.; R. Lofton Hudson, pastor, Wornall Road Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Max Stanfield, pastor, Putnam City Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, and president, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Alvin G. Hause, pastor, Bales Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Homer E. DeLozier, executive secretary, St. Louis, Mo., Baptist Association; Charles E. Curry, Kansas City, Mo., banker; J. R. Lobaugh, Kansas City realtor, and Roy Whisler, St. Louis businessman.

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GREEN BAY, WIS., IN
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION

GREEN BAY, Wis.--(BP)--Calvary Baptist Church, Green Bay, was organized recently as the northernmost church affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Green Bay is about 575 miles north of Carbondale, Ill., where offices of the state Southern Baptist organization are located. Sunday worship services are being held in a city recreation hall.

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MISS MABEL ELROD ENDS
36 YEARS OF SERVICE

DALLAS, Tex.--(BP)--The career of Miss Mabel Elrod, who wore out 12 cars "taking young people to meetings where they could receive inspiration for their lives," was climaxed recently with her resignation from the staff of the Gaston Avenue Baptist Church here, where she has served faithfully for the past 36 years.

"Miss Mabel," as she is known to scores of friends over the nation, was one of the first, if not the very first, women religious educational directors among Southern Baptists.

She started her career in 1917 at the First Baptist Church in Houston.

A club she formed during the 1920's to help encourage young people who have dedicated their lives to Christian service is still going and its past membership roll looks like a "Who's Who" among Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries.

The church's largest reception room is named for "Miss Mabel" and the lighting in a new chapel completed two years ago was donated by her friends as a tribute to her life.

"The greatest need in the world today," she said, "is for someone to love young people and their interests."

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ADD HONORARY DEGREES----
ATTN. TEXAS, LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, NEW MEXICO EDITORS

Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.---James Harris, pastor, University Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., doctor of divinity degree.

Louisiana College, Pineville, La.---H. M. Weathersby, Pineville, retiring June 1 after 45 years with Louisiana College, the last 42 as academic dean, doctor of laws degree.

Baylor University, Waco, Tex.---Harold Hicks, pastor, Pulaski Heights Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark., doctor of divinity degree, and Lt.-Col. John Paul Stapp, Holloman Air Force Base, N. M., D. Sc. degree.

Furman University, Greenville, S. C.---James Henry Simpson, pastor, Ridge Spring, S. C., Baptist Church and president, State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina, and William Robert McLin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Sumter, S. C., doctor of divinity degrees; Samuel Meyer Smith, superintendent, Connie Maxwell Children's Home (Baptist), Greenwood, S. C., doctor of humanities degree.

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