

127 Ninth Avenue, North — Nashville, Tennessee

June 9, 1956

MAJOR ACTIONS OF
1956 CONVENTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention, holding its 1956 session in Kansas City with 12,242 messengers registered took these actions:

1. Referred to a committee of seven--W. Perry Crouch, of Asheville, N. C., chairman--the proposed change in name of the Baptist Sunday School Board.
2. Set up a committee of more than 20 members to direct a survey of Southern Baptist Convention agencies with a view toward more effective work for Christian causes, the committee to report in 1957 and to have \$25,000 for the year's study. Members of the committee to be named later.
3. Reaffirmed a 1928 Convention statement about the autonomy of the local Baptist church, but refused to make any reference to a controversial court decision in North Carolina involving the autonomy of a Baptist church in that state.
4. Approved an \$11 million budget for 1957 through the Cooperative Program for SBC missionary and agency work, the highest ever.
5. Assumed control and operation of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky., with the necessary details of transferring it from control of the Woman's Missionary Union to be worked out.
6. Decided to establish a sixth seminary at an indefinite date, and to give serious consideration to the shortage of theological training facilities in the Midwest.
7. Protested serving of liquor on airlines.
8. Chose Louisville, Ky., for 1959 Convention, and Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, to preach 1957 Convention sermon at Chicago.
9. Re-elected C. C. Warren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., to a second, one-year term as Convention president. Also re-elected all secretaries and the treasurer of the Convention. New vice-presidents are Conrad Willard, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, and D. L. Stennis, pastor of rural churches near Meridian, Miss.
10. Provided that Miami, Fla., be site for a new Southern Baptist Convention hospital or hospitals, if Miami area Baptists furnish adequate funds to build and equip them, then turn them over to Southern Baptist Hospital Board "free of all incumbrances." This requires approval of a second Convention session before becoming effective.

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FOUR OFFICERS TO NAME
SBC SURVEY COMMITTEE

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The president, two vice-presidents, and senior secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention will meet in the near future to name a committee to survey the work of the Convention's many agencies.

The meeting probably will be in Nashville.

The survey committee will include one member from each state in the Southern Baptist Convention eligible to have board members, plus three members at large. The committee will have more than 20 members in all.

Duty of the survey committee will be to study the functions of the Convention's agencies and their relationships with each other, with the 30,377 SBC affiliated churches, and with the 24 state Baptist conventions cooperating with the SBC.

It has authority to employ professional help in its study to find the most effective way the Convention's agencies can promote its Christian activities. The Convention allocated \$25,000 for the work of the committee, stipulating that it should report to the 1957 Convention in session at Chicago.

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5 SOUTHERN BAPTISTS
AT BEREA CONFERENCE

BEREA, Ky--(BP)--Five Southern Baptists will be on program of the Inter-denominational Conference of Religious Workers in the Appalachian Mountains, to be held at Berea College here June 25-29.

They are A. B. Cash, Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Wayne E. Oates, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville; H. Leo Eddleman, president, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky;; D. M. Aldridge, president, Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, Ky., and Wendell Belew, Mt. Vernon, Ky.

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ADD HONORARY DEGREES-----

Stetson University, Deland, Fla.---Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice E. Harris Drew, Tallahassee; Giles J. Patterson, Jacksonville, Fla., and Rufus H. Fitzgerald, chancellor emeritus, University of Pittsburgh, doctors of law; Preston B. Sellers, pastor, East Hill Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., doctor of divinity.

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BSSB NAME CHANGE
COMMITTEE SELECTED

ASHEVILLE, N. C.--(BP)--W. Perry Crouch, pastor, First Baptist Church here, will be chairman of a committee making a year's study of the proposed change in name of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

James L. Sullivan, Nashville, Sunday School Board executive secretary, recommended the name be changed to the Board of Education and Publication of the Southern Baptist Convention. The proposed change was contained in his report to the Convention's 1956 session in Kansas City.

The Convention referred to the proposal to a seven-member committee. Others serving on the committee are H. Leo Eddleman, president, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; Oliver Shields, pastor, Lafayette Park Baptist Church, St. Louis; James H. Landes, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.; J. Winston Pearce, pastor, First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Fla., and C. Vaughan Rock, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

The members of the Sunday School Board decided, after a lengthy study, that some other name would better describe the varied functions of this agency. They selected the Board of Education and Publication as the title they felt was the most descriptive of the agency's work.

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CONVENTION FUNDS UP
14½ PCT. COVER 1955

NASHVILLE--(BP)-- Southern Baptist Convention receipts, counting both Cooperative Program and designated funds, are running nearly 14½ per cent ahead of a like period in 1955.

The May monthly receipts of \$2,125,643 increased the total for the first five months of 1956 to \$12,043,899, which is \$1½ million over the amount for January-May, 1955, Convention Treasurer Porter Routh declared.

The five-month total included \$5,538,318 through the Cooperative Program (11.51 per cent above last year) and \$6,505,580 through designated gifts (17 per cent above 1955).

May receipts included \$1,133,629 through Cooperative Program and \$992,013 through designations.

During the month, _____ gave a total of \$ _____. This placed it _____ among state conventions cooperating with the SBC. Of the total, \$ _____ was through Cooperative Program and \$ _____ through designation.

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MICHIGAN WORK--Advancement of Southern Baptist Convention work in Michigan is being planned, including ultimate formation of a state convention cooperating with the SBC. Most of the 59 SBC churches in the state are concentrated around Detroit, which is shown in the lower right of the map. Four million people live around this city, another four million elsewhere in the state. 8500 of them belong to SBC churches. Viewing the map are W. E. Walker, left, associate superintendent of missions for Motor Cities (Detroit) Baptist Association; Fred D. Hubbs, associational missions superintendent; B. L. Bridges, state executive secretary, Arkansas Baptist Convention, with which association is affiliated, and A. B. Cash, secretary of pioneer missions, SBC Home Mission Board.--Baptist Press.

COMPARISON 1955 and 1956 RECEIPTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
January-May, 1956

	Cooperative Program 1956	Cooperative Program 1955	Designated 1956	Designated 1955
Specials	1,652.93	1,514.00	3,194.12	981.78
Alabama	241,130.59	221,603.71	327,912.56	261,611.84
Alaska	2,256.25	2,045.65	4,769.17	3,875.72
Arizona	15,166.97	16,513.97	18,665.24	25,592.49
Arkansas	185,651.12	174,625.64	170,955.23	146,334.07
California	34,482.13	38,523.43	53,054.27	40,708.79
Colorado	4,666.64	--	2,227.75	--
District of Columbia	18,015.17	16,158.98	18,114.30	19,032.82
Florida	325,712.09	306,555.31	238,862.76	200,128.47
Georgia	442,494.07	374,043.82	445,032.75	375,551.87
Hawaii	1,234.26	932.73	8,526.40	8,369.06
Illinois	78,313.56	75,952.67	62,460.81	50,408.19
Kansas	7,389.01	6,088.96	11,435.89	8,916.23
Kentucky	250,000.00	229,978.51	247,354.89	211,275.25
Louisiana	260,715.27	216,723.44	290,725.21	244,747.22
Maryland	52,837.92	45,075.33	223.64	1,154.08
Mississippi	227,321.64	250,259.70	303,354.06	243,804.67
Missouri	271,227.32	252,795.65	254,786.25	220,842.20
New Mexico	45,627.59	38,488.17	41,580.81	36,784.32
North Carolina	410,892.82	405,994.10	687,481.25	564,108.72
Ohio	6,389.56	2,996.91	4,317.78	2,926.87
Oklahoma	340,346.38	298,976.79	266,351.12	223,736.07
Oregon-Washington	3,881.09	4,041.13	10,929.59	8,101.72
South Carolina	476,480.56	416,369.58	363,364.19	318,478.99
Tennessee	415,663.04	380,916.79	304,375.74	243,272.92
Texas	1,076,875.00	886,822.50	2,008,214.70	1,746,765.75
Virginia	341,895.97	302,498.44	357,310.30	352,635.75
Totals	5,538,318.95	4,966,495.91	6,505,580.78	5,560,145.86