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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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78-181

Penn-Jersey Baptists  
Cooperate With Florida

**PITTSBURGH (BP)**--Elected "messengers" to the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey voted to enter into a working partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention during their eighth annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

Meeting in the historic Pittsburgh Baptist Church where Southern Baptist work began in Pennsylvania with an organized fellowship 20 years ago, messengers also re-elected C. Albert Ambrose, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Cherry Hills, N. J., as president.

In other action, they voted a long-range goal to triple support of missions through the Cooperative Program unified budget by 1982.

The working partnership with the Florida Convention grew out of plans developed cooperatively by representatives of each convention as a strategic means of reaching goals of the Bold Mission Thrust in "pioneer areas" where Southern Baptist work is new in the United States.

Bold Mission Thrust is the Southern Baptist plan of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world by the year 2000.

The convention adopted a total budget of \$1,092,858, including a goal of \$264,500 in state Cooperative Program contributions from 140 organized churches and chapels, with over 17,000 members. Twenty-five percent of the state Cooperative Program contributions will go to the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program budget for world missions.

The 1979 convention will meet Nov. 1-3 at Memorial Baptist Church, Gettysburg, Pa.

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Illinois Baptists Urge  
Chicago as Seminary SiteBaptist Press  
11/7/78

**ALTON, Ill. (BP)**--The Illinois Baptist State Association passed a resolution urging a seventh Southern Baptist seminary in the Chicago area.

The convention will forward the resolution to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, which is studying the feasibility of another seminary in the northern part of the nation. The study was authorized by the Southern Baptist Convention at its 1978 meeting in Atlanta last June.

James M. Baldwin of Salem, Ill., who spoke in favor of the resolution, pointed out that Southern Baptists are the only major, evangelical body in the United States without a seminary in the Chicago area. Baldwin said present seminary libraries in the Chicago area offer a built-in resource for a new seminary, as they contain one of the largest collection of theological books in the world.

Messengers also adopted, with a change of only \$500, a 1979 budget of \$4,797,821. It includes a state Cooperative Program goal of \$2,500,000, 41 percent of which will go to worldwide mission causes through the national SBC Cooperative Program.

In an earlier message to the convention, Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, pointed out that for the first time in history, Illinois Baptists gave \$1 million in Cooperative Program gifts to SBC causes in the fiscal year just ending.

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The only major item of business involved was a motion by Leslie M. Huff of Carmi, Ill., that a committee of seven be appointed to study the possibility of a four-year Baptist college in Illinois, to be housed in the Baptist Building in Springfield.

Craig Ridings of Rockford, Ill., successfully moved to amend the motion for the study to include the possibility of Judson College in Elgin, Ill., providing such services instead of forming a new school. Illinois Southern Baptists contribute \$5,200 a year to the operation of Judson, an accredited four-year, private, Baptist-related college which has no affiliation with any particular Baptist body.

Messengers approved resolutions which proclaimed 1979 as the "Year of Evangelism," called for a simpler lifestyle and more sacrificial giving to world hunger, urged overcoming of prejudice between races, called for more wholesome programming in television, supported the SALT II negotiations with the Soviet Union, and appealed for human rights, especially in the light of persecution of Georgi Vins in Russia.

Other business included electing of Joe Bob Pierce, pastor of First Baptist Church, Carterville, Ill., as president; changing the title of James H. Smith, state convention's chief executive, from executive secretary to executive director; and announcing the 1979 annual meeting to convene, Nov. 1-3, at First Baptist Church, Herrin, Ill.

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Snedden Plans Retirement,  
Laymen Elected W. Va.

Baptist Press  
11/7/78

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. (BP)--John I. Snedden, who pioneered Southern Baptist work in West Virginia and was the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists' first executive secretary, announced his retirement at the convention's annual meeting.

The state Baptist body also elected laymen Fred Morgan of Parkersburg, W. Va., and Wellington Johnson of Fairlea, W. Va., as president and first vice president, respectively.

West Virginia Baptists adopted a record budget of \$620,995, of which 24 percent will go to national Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Snedden will retire Dec. 1, 1979, two months after he turns 65. He has been executive secretary since 1971 and was director of missions and evangelism for the convention for two years before that. He was area missionary in Charleston, W. Va., for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for 13 years before becoming missions director.

Resolutions were passed voicing dismay at the increase in legalized gambling in states around West Virginia and at the exploitation of sex on television and in movies. Other resolutions asked prayer for government leaders and supported the expression of love through marriage.

The convention approved sale of 12 acres of a 48-acre tract purchased two years ago in Elk View, 10 miles northeast of Charleston, for a site on which to build state offices. Original price of the entire tract was \$100,000. The 12-acre piece was sold for \$100,000 with utility and excavation concessions from the developer bringing the total value of the sale to around \$300,000. State Baptist offices are currently housed in a three-story converted residence in St. Albans, 25 miles from the new office site.

The West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists will hold its 1979 meeting Nov. 2-3 at Memorial Baptist Church, Beckley, W. Va.

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Duke McCall Recovering  
From Coronary Surgery

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Duke K. McCall, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is expected to have a complete recovery following an operation here November 4 to correct a blocked artery.

Physicians have said that McCall should return to full business activities in about 90 days, and that his general health may be even better than before, as a result of the coronary-bypass procedure. It is McCall's first hospitalization in his 27 years as president.

As provided by trustee bylaws, McCall has named Roy L. Honeycutt, provost and dean of the school of theology, to serve as acting president during his convalescence.

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Ohio Baptists Concentrate  
On Retirement Issues

Baptist Press  
11/7/78

TOLEDO, Ohio (BP)--Messengers to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio concentrated on retirement related matters during annual session in Toledo--learning of the retirement of their long-time executive secretary, objecting to retirement actions by a Southern Baptist organization and voting a feasibility study for a proposed state retirement center.

Ray E. Roberts, who has led Ohio Southern Baptist work from its beginning as a convention, announced he will retire in June, 1980, at age 65 as specified by convention policy.

Roberts, dean of state Southern Baptist chief executives who assumed leadership when the Ohio Convention formed Jan. 8, 1954, said he had turned down suggestions that he extend his tenure because of new laws governing retirement.

In another action, the Ohio messengers barely passed a motion by a vote of 73 to 63, objecting to a recent action of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to supplement the retirement income of its chief executive, Porter W. Routh, who will retire Aug. 1, 1979, after 28 years in the position.

The Executive Committee voted to make Routh's retirement adequate by approving an additional \$500 per month, with a \$250 benefit per month for Mrs. Routh if she survives him, and continued expenses for secretarial help and travel to annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings.

After debate went back and forth pro and con and a motion to table was defeated, Ohio Baptist messengers approved a resolution objecting to the precedent of using Cooperative Program funds in this manner and urged "a moving toward adequate retirement provisions for all Southern Baptist church and convention employees on a fair and equitable basis."

The resolution was based on an editorial Kentucky Baptist Editor C. R. Daley wrote opposing the Executive Committee action on the basis of a questionable use of funds, not as personal opposition to Routh or the Executive Committee. An Ohio Baptist spokesman said the state convention's action was also not aimed as a personal censure of the Executive Committee or of Routh, whom he said has shown outstanding leadership.

The resolution said:

"Whereas the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has taken action which appears to provide funding to supplement the retirement provisions of the Annuity Board program and whereas the funds to accomplish this supplement are expected to be derived from the Cooperative Program, be it resolved that we object to the precedent being established in the apparent unwise use of the Cooperative Program funds which should be employed within the intent with which these funds are given, particularly in view of our Bold Mission Thrust.

Be it further resolved that we feel that any such continued action may have an adverse effect upon our churches' response to our challenge to sacrificial giving through the Cooperative Program. Be it further resolved that the Ohio Convention call for a moving toward adequate retirement provisions for all Southern Baptist church and convention employees on a fair and equitable basis."

In other action, messengers voted the feasibility study for a fund raising effort for a proposed retirement center near Cincinnati; elected T. J. (Jack) Tichenor, a retired Cincinnati pastor, as president; and voted a \$2,877,563 budget, which includes a goal of \$1,895,781 in state Cooperative Program contributions from Ohio congregations. Of that amount, 37.5 percent will go to missions causes of the SBC through the national Cooperative Program.

A convention spokesman said 1979 will be the first year that Ohio Baptists will give over \$1 million dollars to SBC causes through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions.

The Ohio convention will meet Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 1979, Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio.

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Football Star Would 'Sooner'  
Be Known as Solid Layman

By Jerilynn Wood

BROOKINGS, S.D. (BP)--He's assistant to the president of an Oklahoma oil company, a graduate student at Tulsa University, a sportscaster for NCAA college football and a former quarterback of the University of Oklahoma.

Calling Steve Davis versatile is an understatement for the 25-year-old man who spoke at more than 170 rallies, churches, and campuses during the first six months of 1978.

"I am often billed as a youth evangelist, but I would rather be considered a solid, communicating Christian layman," Davis said at an evangelism rally at South Dakota State University. "I don't feel called into fulltime evangelism, but God has given me the ability to communicate with young people and provided me with many opportunities that I cannot pass up."

Davis grew up in Sallisaw, Okla., and is the oldest of four boys. He became a Christian at the age of 10 and was active in sports and church throughout high school.

"Whenever I give my testimony people are often surprised that I don't have a background of being involved with liquor or drugs or other problems during my teenage years," Davis said. "Instead, I tell about my Mom and her wonderful influence in my life and leading me to a saving knowledge of Christ."

Davis played football in high school for the Sallisaw Black Diamonds as a defensive safety his sophomore year, tailback his junior year and quarterback his senior year.

"When I graduated I was not one of those highly sought after athletes, but the University of Oklahoma said that I was a nice kid and they would give me a scholarship," Davis said. "I went there my freshman year as the eighth quarterback of eight men, but it is amazing how God eliminates obstacles in our lives and by the end of the season I was the starting quarterback of the freshman team."

As a sophomore, Davis earned the starting quarterback spot on the varsity and led the Sooners to three Big Eight Conference titles and two national titles before he graduated in 1976.

"Sports have been very good to me," he said. "I've been able to play against the best teams in the nation and during my three years at Oklahoma our record was 34 wins, one loss and one tie. I have experienced all of this, but I am here to say that football isn't everything."

"When I completed my last game as Sooner quarterback I knew life continued after college football. Christ is able to fill the gaps in our lives if we allow him that opportunity."

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