



-- BAPTIST PRESS

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November 16, 1979

79-193

Kansas-Nebraska Baptists
Elect Host Pastor, Woman

GREAT BEND, Kans. (BP)--Kansas-Nebraska Baptists elected the host pastor and the first woman since 1947 to offices during the annual meeting of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

Doyle Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Great Bend, Kans., was elected president and Mary Jo Robertson, mother of six, from Kansas City, Kans., was elected recording secretary. She is the first woman officer since 1947.

Messengers to the convention adopted a \$1,763,016 budget for 1980, including \$971,004 in anticipated income from Kansas-Nebraska Baptist churches. Of the local income, 22 percent is designated for world missions through the national Cooperative Program, an increase of one percentage point over the current year.

Progress reports were given on the Good News Mid-America evangelistic campaign the convention will engage in in the spring. In the planning stages since 1977, the campaign will include a media blitz and association-wide simultaneous revivals in March and April.

Messengers adopted resolutions supporting President Carter's handling of the situation during the tension created when Iranian students seized the American embassy in Tehran with 62 American hostages.

They also supported political activity in Kansas that is trying to raise the legal drinking age from 18 to 21. While maintaining a position favoring total abstinence, the resolution said messengers supported actions that would limit the use of alcohol.

The 1980 meeting will be Nov. 11-13 at Bellevue, Neb.

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Virginia Baptists Seek
Para-Church Accountability

Baptist Press
11/16/79

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--Virginia Baptists elected V. Allen Gaines, pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Newport News, as president, and called for para-church groups to pay taxes on their business enterprises that compete in the marketplace.

Messengers to the 156th annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted a resolution asking para-church groups to publicly disclose the source and expenditure of their funds before they are forced to by state and federal regulatory agencies; and decrying persons using their Christian faith for capital gain, especially by politicizing certain theological positions. No agency or individual was specifically named.

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Messengers adopted a \$9.25 million budget for 1980, including \$3,525,000 for world mission causes through the national Cooperative Program. After short debate, the messengers voted to retain the 3 1/2 percent budget allocation to the University of Richmond.

Messengers instructed their general board to study church representation at the annual meeting and bring a report next year. Current guidelines allocate one messenger to all churches that contribute financially to the general association. A second messenger is allowed if the church contributes as much as \$100, a third for \$200 and an additional messenger for each \$400 contributed, to a maximum of 15.

The feeling was that considering inflation, the current system enabled small churches to have large representation.

Other resolutions: opposed the calling of a constitutional convention because of the threat it would pose to all religious and civil liberties; supported human rights; supported President Carter and urged him to seek the release of American hostages held in Iran through peaceful means that will preserve the integrity of the nation.

The messengers had prayer for peace and the Iranian situation and collected a world hunger offering of \$2,500 from among themselves.

A constitutional change will require nominations specifically for the offices of first and second vice president. Previously, there was only one vote and he who received the fewer votes, but at least 25 percent, was the second vice president.

The 1980 meeting will be Nov. 11-12 at First Baptist Church, Richmond, which will be observing its 200th anniversary.

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Injured Rwanda MK To Come
To Baylor For Treatment

Baptist Press
11/16/79

NAIROBI, Kenya(BP)--Wayne Martin, 16-year-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries Earl and Jane Martin, will enter Baylor University Medical Center for treatment of head injuries sustained in East Africa.

Doctors in Nairobi, Kenya, where he has been hospitalized with a brain hemorrhage, recommended that he be taken to the United States for treatment after bleeding stopped and his condition stabilized.

Cause of the hemorrhage is unclear although Martin was involved in two accidents in recent months. In August, a swimming pool accident in Rwanda, where his parents are stationed, caused temporary headaches. In October he was injured again while playing soccer at Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe, Kenya, where he is a student. His parents, from Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., will accompany him to Texas.

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Anonymous Students
Level Charges at OBU

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--The inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible issue was introduced into sessions of the State Convention of Oklahoma Baptists as messengers called for a study committee to review textbooks, teaching assignments and the doctrinal stance of teachers at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

An Edmond pastor, Jerry Sullaway, introduced a motion commending the school's trustees and administration, but also calling for an investigation of "all other matters pertinent to the instruction and teaching at OBU."

After lengthy debate including information that the OBU trustees already had asked their academic affairs committee to look into the allegations, the motion was passed.

The action was probably prompted by an anonymously-written 25-page paper distributed at the convention charging certain OBU faculty members of neo-orthodoxy and the university of being a Christian school in name only. The paper was signed by "concerned students and alumni" but was reportedly written by only two students. The anonymous writers also charged that drunkenness, immorality, drug use and homosexuality are prevalent at OBU.

Messengers received a different view of the university during the OBU report when numerous students and faculty members testified to the quality of education, Christian integrity and instruction being given at the school. OBU President Eugene Hall called the charges "silly" and told reporters that he felt the paper presented a very minority viewpoint on the part of the students. Hall has received petitions signed by nearly 800 students countering the anonymous writers' claims and calling the paper a very unChristian act.

In other actions, the messengers sustained the convention board of directors' financial arrangement for compensation to Jack L. Gritz, former editor of the Baptist Messenger, and turned down an effort to secure full salary and benefits for him through 1981.

Gritz was terminated as editor by the directors in September, given full salary through March 1980, and offered an arrangement that, if he took disability or early retirement, would have avoided any financial loss until he reached age 65 in December 1981.

He refused the arrangement, saying he cannot conscientiously take disability and early retirement would penalize him too severely. As voted by the messengers, Gritz will receive some \$45,000 in severance pay, including his full salary through next March. After failing to come to terms with the board of directors, Gritz circulated a letter among state pastors saying that the right, honest, honorable thing would be to pay him full salary and benefits to the end of 1981.

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, the state's largest church, was elected president of the convention.

Messengers adopted a budget of \$9,775,000, which includes a challenge section of \$725,000. Both sections will be divided 56.5 percent for Oklahoma causes and 43.5 percent to Southern Baptist missions through the Cooperative Program. Oklahoma Baptists are increasing the gifts to the national Cooperative Program by 1/2 percentage point each year until they achieve a 50-50 split between state and world missions.

Messengers adopted resolutions commending the lives of Richard and Marilyn Douglass, Oklahoma City pastor and wife who were killed by robbers in their home Oct. 15 and pledging prayer and sympathy to their children and Putnam City Baptist Church where Douglass served.

Another resolution urged trustees and administrators of all institutions to insure the integrity of their institutions with the Baptist Faith and Message statement. Another resolution enjoined messengers to pray without ceasing for President Carter and his advisors as they deal with the crisis in Iran in which Iranian students seized the American embassy in Tehran and kept 62 Americans hostage.

Another resolution cited the human suffering in Cambodia and urged that Baptists pray for removal of all barriers for reaching the Cambodian people with aid.

The 1980 convention will be at First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Nov. 11-13.

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Mississippi Baptists
Re-elect President

Baptist Press
11/16/79

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi Baptists re-elected Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, as president, passed an \$11.2 million 1980 budget and offered resolutions concerning world hunger, gambling, abuse of beverage alcohol and television immorality.

The \$11.2 million budget allocates 33 percent to world mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

Messengers recommended participation in World Hunger Day, Aug. 6, 1980, encouraged churches to observe an anti-gambling education emphasis in January 1980 and pointed out biblical principles contrary to gambling.

The resolution on the abuse of beverage alcohol noted that relaxed controls of the sale of alcohol tend to increase consumption and said tax revenues from its sale don't begin to offset the economic cost of dealing with alcohol-related problems.

The television immorality resolution pointed out a continuation of the deterioration of moral qualities from television's programming and messengers encouraged local network affiliates to refuse to carry network programming which the community determines unacceptable.

In other business, messengers voted to ask for a study by the Southern Baptist Education Commission to help determine the future of Clarke College in Newton, a junior college with enrollment of 149, operated by Mississippi Baptists.

In 1980 the Mississippi Baptist Convention will meet in Jackson, Nov. 11-13.

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Christine E. Graves
Died in Puerto Rico

Baptist Press
11/16/79

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP)--Christine Eidson (Mrs. William W.) Graves, 27-year veteran Southern Baptist missionary, died in a Puerto Rico hospital of cancer Nov. 15, two days after her 54th birthday.

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Mrs. Graves and her husband, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for the Caribbean, returned to Puerto Rico three weeks before her death. They had been in the United States on medical leave from Aug. 18 until Oct. 25.

A stateside funeral was to be held Nov. 21 in Fairburn, Ga. A memorial service was held in Calvary Baptist Church in San Juan.

Mrs. Graves, a native of Douglas County, Ga., wrote the 1979 foreign mission graded series book for younger children, "Rainbow Island," which focused on Dominica.

Appointed in 1952 before her marriage, she was first stationed in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as librarian of International Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1957 she married Graves, a widower with a daughter now grown. From 1957-72 they worked in Buenos Aires and Posadas, Argentina. In 1972 they moved to San Juan.

Mrs. Graves was a graduate of Bessie Tift College (now Tift College), Forsyth, Ga., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Judge Orders Reimbursement
For Cost of Papal Platform

By Stan Hastey

Baptist Press
11/16/79

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--Declaring that the First Amendment to the Constitution "has consistently been interpreted in letter and in spirit as prohibiting the expenditure of public funds for a religious service," a federal judge has ruled that the archdiocese of Philadelphia must reimburse the city for expenses incurred in constructing a platform from which Pope John Paul II said mass during his recent U.S. visit.

City solicitor Sheldon Albert, who argued the case for Philadelphia, said the city will appeal.

Judge Raymond J. Broderick, himself a Roman Catholic, ruled that the expenditure, insisted on by Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, violated all three guidelines of the Supreme Court's three-pronged test for spending public monies for nonpublic uses. He ordered the city to seek reimbursement of more than \$200,000.

Judge Broderick's carefully-written, 17-page memorandum held that the city's purpose in building the platform was religious instead of secular, that the primary effect of its action was to advance religion, and that it fostered an excessive entanglement of the city with religion.

His opinion also called attention to a fourth test enunciated by the nation's high court in recent years, the question of whether such an action as that of the city of Philadelphia would tend to promote divisiveness along religious lines. Representatives from several religious groups in Philadelphia have claimed that the city should now be willing to expend public funds for their services.

Judge Broderick's decision came in a case brought by two Philadelphia women, one of them American Baptist minister Mary Anne Forehand, who is also an information specialist for the Board of National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. in nearby Valley Forge, Pa.

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Ms. Forehand, a former White House aide during Gerald Ford's presidency, was joined in her suit by the Board of National Ministries and the American Civil Liberties Union. Support in the form of a resolution also came from the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Ms. Forehand's and National Ministries' position has been publicly criticized by American Baptist Churches president-elect William F. Keucher, who said he had sent a contribution to the archdiocese of Philadelphia to demonstrate his support of the pope's visit. Keucher, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., is also a member and former chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Broderick, saying that reimbursement of the city for the "net cost" of the platform's construction was "an appropriate remedy," set the amount owed by the archdiocese at \$204,569, a figure arrived at by subtracting the total cost of \$310,741 for those items which can be used again by the city in future public ceremonies. Those items came to \$106,172, Broderick held.

The platform, measuring more than 28 feet high and 144 feet in diameter, was used by the pope Oct. 3 and was erected on Logan Circle in downtown Philadelphia. A crowd of more than one million participated.

Broderick, despite his ruling that Philadelphia violated the Constitution, commended the city for its "skillful planning and management which permitted the vast crowd to assemble in safety and comfort." He said that the pope's visit "brought a unique honor to the city of Philadelphia and inspired feelings of fellowship and good will which transcended all sectarian lines."

In a telephone interview with Baptist Press, city solicitor Albert said that Judge Broderick's views on separation of church and state as reflected in his decision are so strict as to prohibit the city from "putting out a fire in a church."

He challenged Broderick's decision specifically at the "secular purpose" argument, saying that what motivated the city to build the platform was concern for "crowd security" and the visibility of the pope during the mass.

He likened the city's dilemma to that faced several years ago when the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team won the Stanley Cup playoffs two years in a row. During the city-sponsored parade after their first championship, Albert said, the players rode in convertibles and caused fans lined along the streets to press forward to get a look, thereby causing security and safety problems. He said that the following year, after the Flyers' second consecutive championship, the city rented flat-bed trailers so all could see the players during the parade.

Albert said that the pope, like hockey players, is a public figure. As a foreign head of state, he concluded, John Paul II was entitled to full protection by the city. The American Baptist suit disputes the claim John Paul II is a head of state.

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South Carolina Baptists
Elect Editor President

Baptist Press
11/16/79

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--South Carolina Baptists elected the editor of their state newspaper as president and took a moderate position on the ordination of women during the annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

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John E. Roberts, editor of the Baptist Courier since 1966, is the first editor elected president of the convention in 25 years. He won the position in balloting with Loulie Latimer Owens, a Baptist author and historian. Mrs. Owens was the first woman ever nominated for convention president in South Carolina.

The convention accepted "as information" a study committee's report on the role of women in church and denominational life. The report recognized the increasing number of women being ordained as deacons and as ministers. Messengers refused to take a position on ordination, however, saying they chose not to infringe on local church autonomy.

The convention also heard first reading of two constitutional changes which will be acted on next year. One would reduce the committee on boards from 43 to 15 members. The other would require that convention messengers be members of a church "which is in good standing" with a local association.

The latter is seen as a move to refuse to seat messengers from churches which accept persons for membership who were not baptized by immersion. Two churches in the state, First Baptist Church, Greenwood, and First Baptist, Clemson, follow this practice and have been dismissed from their associations.

Messengers adopted a \$13 million budget for 1980, including \$4,890,500 for ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

In other business, they adopted resolutions opposing humanism as a religion; supporting South Carolina Gov. Richard Riley in his stand against admitting atomic waste for dumping in the state; calling for a national day of prayer for the safety and rapid release of American hostages in the embassy in Iran; urging churches to sponsor refugee families from Southeast Asia; and expressing concern for deteriorating family life.

The 1980 convention will be Nov. 11-13 in Columbia.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Baptist Courier.

Utah-Idaho Baptist
Target Growth Areas

Baptist Press
11/16/79

POCATELLO, Idaho (BP)--Baptists in Utah-Idaho targeted 28 areas for new churches in the next four years, many of them in the booming energy corridor, at the annual meeting of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers also elected Louis Demster, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Caldwell, Idaho, as president and set a budget of \$764,043 for 1980.

The budget anticipates income of \$218,343 from convention churches and designates 20 percent of that to world missions through the national Cooperative Program.

Population in the energy corridor areas covered by the convention is expected to increase by 59 percent within the next 10 years.

The 1980 meeting of the convention will be Nov. 11-12 in Clearfield, Utah.

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Florida Baptists Protest
Convention Salary Secrecy

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Messengers to the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention questioned the division of their gifts between state and world missions causes and sought to make salary information of convention employees more readily available.

The \$9.7 million budget adopted by the messengers allocates 52 percent for Florida Baptist Convention mission causes and 48 percent for world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

A question over the division of funds arose when the state Board of Missions recommended that all funds received over the basic budget be designated for the development of Blue Springs Baptist Assembly in Marianna, debt retirement of capital expenditures and for Florida Baptist institutions.

The recommendation was adopted, but as last year, objections were raised to the allocation of potential overage. Some messengers felt that all Cooperative Program gifts should be divided according to the 52-48 percentage formula.

The Florida Baptist Convention, which cannot set a budget that exceeds the receipts of the previous year, this year had an income of \$1,225,185 over the budget.

Messengers included a recommendation requesting the state Board of Missions to "restudy the percentage division of the Cooperative Program dollar with the purpose of determining a percentage division between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes which shall apply to all Cooperative Program dollars received by the state convention." The motion included a three-year limit for the study and said a 50-50 division is a desirable goal.

Dan C. Stringer, new executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, said he hopes to bring a recommendation by 1980 that will include schedules to achieve the convention's desired division.

A motion by Joe Bamberg, pastor of First Baptist Church, Milton, asked that "all information concerning salaries and fringe benefits of the Florida Baptist Convention employees be made available to the state Board of Missions and from them to the constituents of this convention." After considerable debate and parliamentary maneuvering, the motion was postponed until the next convention when more time would be available for discussion.

For many years the convention published in the annual individual salaries of all employees. However, since 1966, they have not appeared. The policy now stated is, "Information concerning the individual staff salaries shall be retained as confidential information by the administrative committee of the state Board of Missions, the executive secretary-treasurer, and appropriate convention staff personnel."

Messengers elected Edwin L. Mason, an attorney and member of First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, as president, and took up an offering of \$1,835 for world hunger.

Messengers adopted resolutions urging individuals to change their lifestyles to help relieve the energy crisis; supporting Florida Baptists' schools; urging more involvement in civic responsibilities; condemning terrorism, specifically that demonstrated when Iranian students seized the American embassy and held 62 Americans hostage; and supporting Caribbean missions, in which the Florida convention is deeply involved.

The 1980 convention will be Nov. 10-12 in Panama City.