

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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**\$93 Million Cooperative
Program Goal Approved**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A \$93 million Cooperative Program budget goal for 1981-82 has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The goal, which includes \$83.4 million in the basic operating budget, will be proposed to the 1981 annual meeting in Los Angeles. The budget also includes \$3,000,600 for capital needs and a Bold Mission Thrust challenge of \$6,599,400.

In addition to adopting the budget goal, members of the committee in their September meeting also heard requests from SBC agencies for funds, moved to increase lay participation in missions and denominational affairs and honored Albert McClellan, who will retire as associate executive secretary Dec. 31, after 31 years.

The record budget was adopted without debate by the 66-member committee, which also voted to appoint a committee to study Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship emphasis and to recommend a plan of action to increase the level of giving to and through the local church to SBC cooperative ministries.

Prior to establishing the budget goal, committee members heard agency executives request funding for 1981-82. The executives will again present their needs to a subcommittee in January, and a detailed budget will be discussed at the committee meeting in February.

Most of the executives, citing double digit inflation, appealed for increases in funding ranging from a low of eight percent to a high of nearly 30 percent.

Citing "inflation continuing around the world," R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, asked for an increase of 25 percent, pushing the Cooperative Program share of the worldwide missions agency to \$45,074,000.

"The request is realistic in terms of need; a careful and conservative estimate. The indications are, as of today, that it would take 20 percent more dollars to allow an increase of two points for advance," he said.

The Home Mission Board, the denomination's other missionary-sending agency, requested an increase of 17 percent, pushing its share from \$14.5 million to \$17 million.

Both of the missions executives pointed out the agencies get less than half of their annual operating budgets from the Cooperative Program, drawing the major portion of other funds from special offerings.

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The six seminaries requested increases ranging from 20 percent to 28.4 percent, amounting to a total of \$20,338,401, up from \$15,162,972 in the 1980-81 budget.

In another action, committee members voted to recommend a constitutional change requiring that at least one of the three top elective officers of the convention be a layperson. The officers are president and first and second vice presidents.

Currently, the constitution does not specify whether officers should be ordained or lay. All three officers elected in St. Louis are ordained.

The proposal came after Warren H. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Okla., wrote to the Executive Committee "expressing deep interest in the election of laymen from time to time as officers."

The proposal will be presented to messengers of the 1981 convention for their action. To become part of the constitution, the amendment must be adopted by two conventions.

The committee referred for future report studies on equal voting privileges for churches, expansion of participation in the annual meeting, revision of membership requirements, requirements for a quorum for the agencies, selection of the SBC Committee on Committees and possible revision in the work and function of the Committee on Resolutions.

Also, the committee agreed to co-sponsor a conference on governmental intervention in religious affairs.

The meeting, which will be co-sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Conference, National Council of Churches, National Association of Evangelicals, Synagogue Council of America and Lutheran Council of the U.S., will be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1981.

In presenting the recommendation for co-sponsorship, John Dunaway of Corbin, Ky., called governmental intervention in religious affairs "one of the most critical issues of the day... (and) success calls for the combined efforts of all religious groups."

Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., mentioned the meeting will be co-sponsored by the National Council of Churches and added: "I don't agree with them theologically, but this is not a theological thing."

In other action, the committee:

--Elected Claude Kirkpatrick of Baton Rouge, La., as chairman of the committee on boards, commissions and standing committees, and named Kell C. Williams Sr. of Clearwater, Fla., as the Southern Baptist representative to the North American Baptist Fellowship.

--Asked the Brotherhood Commission to assume leadership in involving Baptist Men in Bold Mission Thrust;

--Discontinued its study of the program statements of the Public Affairs Committee and the Christian Life Commission;

--Voted a 9.5 percent cost of living salary increase for Executive Committee staffers, and approved a new personnel manual for the committee's employees, and

--Honored E. Harmon Moore, executive secretary-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, and Eugene Whitlow, editor of the Baptist New Mexican, in advance of their retirement at the end of the year.

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Meredith College Faculty
Critical of Smith Remark

Baptist Press
9/25/80

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--The faculty of Meredith College, a four-year women's liberal arts college affiliated with North Carolina Baptists, has taken exception to remarks made by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention about Jews.

The faculty unanimously adopted an open letter to Bailey Smith, which disagreed with the president over remarks he made alleging God does not hear the prayers of a Jew.

The letter says the faculty is "proud of our Baptist heritage and affirms the strength which we gained through the roots of this heritage," but notes part of the heritage is "the freedom of open inquiry and the freedom of individual conscience."

The letter, crafted by Allen Page, associate professor of religion and philosophy, fears Smith's views "may be popularly understood to be representative of all Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist institutions."

It goes on: "While we recognize Mr. Smith's right to his views, we do not affirm this as our view. Standing within the Judeo-Christian tradition, we affirm that God is the God of all people and that God alone is Judge."

Page, who has been a teacher at the 1,500-student institution since 1973, said he initially wrote the statement as a "personal response," but after talking to colleagues, decided to rewrite it as a letter from the faculty.

The statement was unanimously adopted by the estimated 75 faculty present for the meeting. Meredith has 76 full-time faculty and 51 on part-time status.

"We felt we had a very good representation," Page said. "There was some discussion, but the thrust of it was in terms of the most appropriate way to say what we wanted to say rather than anyone being in disagreement with the letter."

Page noted several institutions of higher learning have been aswirl in controversy, particularly Wake Forest University, another school affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

"I am aware that some schools have been under extreme scrutiny," he said. "I had no intention of trying to inflame that situation, but I felt the risk that this position (Smith's) could be interpreted as the Christian position was so great - we must speak out."

John E. Weems, president of Meredith, issued a statement: "We do concur with the faculty statement...."

Meredith, established in 1891, calls itself the "largest church-related women's liberal arts college in the South."

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It has, an official said, "been involved in a number of discussions," with those who have made accusations of liberalism against other schools, but "has not been in the middle of the storm," as has Wake Forest.

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Grubbs Takes Executive Post
With Missions Support Agency

Baptist Press
9/25/80

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--W. Eugene Grubbs, former consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been named executive director of Interchurch Medical Assistance Inc., in New York City.

Interchurch Medical Assistance was created in 1961 by mission boards and relief agencies of several Protestant denominations to procure and distribute pharmaceutical, medical and hospital supplies for their medical mission work, Grubbs said.

Grubbs announced his Aug. 31 resignation from the Foreign Mission Board in March so the board could be aware of his plans as it prepared for major reorganization which took place this spring and summer.

Eighteen member organizations provide staff support and operating expenses for the agency, which also provides supplies to about 30 non-member organizations. More than 400 hospitals and many clinics receive supplies through Interchurch Medical Assistance, he said.

Grubbs came to the board as consultant for laymen overseas in January 1971 and added responsibilities for hunger relief and disaster response in 1975. He and his wife, Anne, were under appointment as missionaries in Southeast Asia, 1958-63.

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Capital Needs Budget
Checks Are Presented

Baptist Press
9/25/80

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Four checks, totaling \$2.5 million, were presented to agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention during the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary, told committee members and guests 1979-80 Cooperative Program receipts surpassed the operating budget and the capital needs budget, and moved into the challenge portion, making presentation of the checks possible.

Through Sept. 24, he said, receipts amounted to \$71,148,315.81, which includes \$68.5 million for the operating budget, \$2.5 million for capital needs, and \$148,315.81 toward the Bold Mission Thrust challenge goal.

Bennett presented checks to William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, \$1,314,000; Duke McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, \$528,000; Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, \$600,000, and James Smith, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, \$58,000.

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