

June 28, 1954

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SETS  
PROCEDURE FOR CHURCH LOAN STUDY

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--A special committee of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has been authorized to confer with the Home Mission Board to consider plans for increasing the Church Extension Loan Fund. The conference will take place as soon as the Board formulates and adopts a definite plan. Authorization of the special committee is the first step in the study of a proposal to borrow \$3,000,000 for relending to churches needing buildings, introduced by the Home Mission Board and referred to the Executive Committee by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis early this month. The Executive Committee authorized the special committee in its regular summer meeting in Nashville.

A second special committee was authorized to consider a formal protest submitted by the Baptist Union of Western Canada questioning the action of the recent Southern Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis extending help to churches in Western Canada. The committee was specifically instructed "to confer with the representatives from the Baptist Union of Western Canada regarding their interpretation of the action taken by the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis."

The presidents of the five seminaries were asked to undertake to prepare and submit to the Committee on Theological Education, a special Convention committee, "a formula for the equitable distribution of Cooperative Program funds for theological education in the realm of current operation." The report was requested for consideration of the committee at least one month in advance of the December Executive Committee meeting.

A sum of \$15,000 from the 1955 Convention Operating Budget was allocated to help finance the Royal Ambassadors, the Convention's mission movement for boys, now in process of change from the Woman's Missionary Union to the Baptist Brotherhood.

Operating budgets for the five seminaries for the fiscal year August 1, 1954-July 31, 1955 were approved as follows: Golden Gate, \$266,000.00; New Orleans, \$431,849.34; Southeastern, \$243,975.00; Southern, \$1,048,745.00; and Southwestern, \$772,218.67, making a total of \$2,762,788.01.

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Permission was granted New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to borrow money up to \$253,000 in order to erect the religious education building and anything else that is immediately needed. The money will be repaid from the Seminary's 1955 Capital Needs allocation in the Cooperative Program already voted by the Convention. The old seminary campus in New Orleans will be earmarked as security for the loan. In connection the Baptist Sunday School Board was granted permission to give the New Orleans Seminary \$25,000 out of its 1955 budget to be used on the religious education building.

In response to an invitation from the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance for assistance in the organization of press facilities of the Baptist World Alliance Congress that meets in London next year, the Executive Committee voted to send Albert McClellan, director of publications to that meeting.

A proposal to study the Book of Reports and Annual with the view of improving its format and making its content more practical, was referred to James W. Merritt, the senior secretary of the Convention, and the director of publications of the Executive Committee for further study.

A total of \$10,550 in scholarship grants to schools serving mountain students was authorized out of the Opdyke Funds, a special endowment for that purpose.

Officers elected for the Executive Committee are C.C. Warren, North Carolina, president; W. Douglas Hudgins, Mississippi, vice-president; Oliver R. Shields, Missouri, secretary; Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary-treasurer; Merrill D. Moore, associate secretary and director of promotion; and Albert McClellan, associate secretary and director of publications.

The Committee will conduct its winter meeting December 15-16, 1954.

W. A. CRISWELL IS  
NEW PRESIDENT OF BSSB

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NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex., was elected president of the Baptist Sunday School Board at the recent semi-annual board meeting held in Nashville. Criswell, pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest church, succeeds William F. Powell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Nashville, who is retiring after thirty-three years.

Further major changes in the board were announced at the meeting by James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer. The Plans and Policies Committee of the Board, which was appointed in June, 1953, with Dr. Criswell, chairman, made further recommendations to the Board in its executive session.

The realigned organization consists of an administrative staff with J. Marvin Crowe as administrative assistant to Sullivan and Leonard E. Wedel, personnel director. Clifton J. Allen, present director of the editorial division, will be transferred to the newly created staff position of editorial secretary.

J. Norris Gilliam, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation was elected as Contract and Investment Counsellor. This staff position was created by the Board in its meeting June 1, 1954, in St. Louis, Mo., during the Southern Baptist Convention. In making this announcement, Sullivan said that Gilliam has not accepted the position yet.

James C. Barry, pastor, Main Street Baptist Church, Emporia, Va., was named editor of materials for week-day religious education, a newly created position in the editorial section of the Sunday school department, Education Division. Barry is a native of Elizabethtown, Ky., and a graduate of Western Kentucky College, Bowling Green, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He will assume his duties August 1.

The four divisions set up include: (1) Merchandise and Sales Division, Keith C. Von Hagen, director, with three departments: Merchandise Selection, E. Odel Crowe, manager; Merchandise Control, H. S. Simpson, manager; Merchandise Sales, Jay D. Turner, manager.

Crowe is sales manager of the Broadman Press, publishing agency of the Sunday School Board; Simpson is manager of the Baptist Book Store, Carbondale, Ill.; and Turner is associate in the Board's Book Store Department.

(2) Education Division, combines the former editorial and education-promotion division. There are no changes in departmental leaders. Continuing as department heads are J. N. Barnette, Sunday school; J. E. Lambdin, Training Union; Joe W. Burton, home education; G. Kearnie Keegan, student work; W. Hines Sims, church music; William J. Fallis, Broadman books, and Earl Waldrup, audio-visuals.

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Donald F. Ackland will work with devotional materials and general tracts.

(3) Service Division, Harold E. Ingraham, former business manager, will become director of the Service Division. Continuing as departmental heads are Herman F. Burns, art; W. D. Kendall, advertising; W. A. Harrell, church architecture; J. P. Edmunds, survey, statistics and information; Miss Helen Conger, Dargan-Carver Library; Miss Florida Waite, church library service; and Mrs. Agnes Durant Pylant, church recreation service.

(4) Business Division, Robert L. Middleton, director of accounting, becomes director of the business division, which will have three departments and two assemblies. New department heads are Noble Van Ness, operations; John H. Williams, contracts and insurance.

A head for the accounting and control department will be named later. Continuing are Willard K. Weeks and E. A. Herron as managers of the Ridgecrest and Glorieta assemblies.

Van Ness is now director of the production department and Williams is director of the book store department.

The Board's special printing committee, headed by Norris Gilliam recommended that the Sunday School Board approve a new printing contract with Baird-Ward printing company of Nashville. This contract includes the printing of fifty-nine periodicals for a period of six and one half years beginning July 1.

September 1, 1954, has been set as the date for the divisional and departmental realignment to take place.