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October 9, 1986

86-147

BJCPA Approves New Representation Plan

By Dan Martin

WASHINGTON (BP)--A new plan which would revise the way nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada are represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs was approved during the fall meeting of the committee.

The plan, which would increase Southern Baptist participation from 15 members to 18 members, was approved with only two negative votes after an effort was made to refer it back to the three-member study committee that proposed the revisions.

Samuel L. Currin, a U.S. attorney in Raleigh, N.C., and a Southern Baptist representative on the BJCPA, made a motion to refer the plan back to the three-member Study Committee on Baptist Joint Committee Representation to allow study of the possibility "of membership based on financial contributions."

Currin told the 30 committee members present for the meeting, "I don't believe we can sell to Southern Baptists a plan that has us contributing 90 percent of the funding and having only a third of the representation."

The plan was proposed by the three-member committee, made up of William Cober, associate general secretary for national ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.; Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; and John Binder, executive secretary of the North American Baptist Conference.

In presenting the plan, Cober, the study committee chairman, said the group "worked harmoniously at seeking equity and maintaining responsible and fair representation of member communions. ..."

"We believe it is critical that we maintain a united witness of nine great Baptist communions and that speaking on behalf of our nine groups has real power," he added.

Cober said the study committee adopted three basic principles: "First, each member denomination shall be adequately represented. Second, no denomination shall have more than one-third of the members of a 54-member Baptist Joint Committee. Third, there shall be a relationship between financial contributions and the number of denominational representatives."

The plan automatically allows each Baptist group one member. Additional representatives are gained by contributing to the BJCPA operating budget. It provides that for each quarter of a percent of the budget--about \$1,150--contributed, member bodies gain one member, up to a total of eight beyond the first representative. Then, for each additional 5 percent of the operating budget contributed, another member is gained, up to a total of nine beyond the first nine.

The only body which would be entitled to the full complement of 18 members would be the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently the SBC is entitled to 15 members. Elder said the American Baptist Convention currently is entitled to 15 members but has only 11 serving. Under the plan, the ABC would decrease to nine members.

Although the BJCPA constitution allows a 72-member board, it has only 42 members currently under appointment. Some bodies do not appoint their fully allotted membership and others--like the ABC--voluntarily have reduced the number of persons they appoint to the BJCPA.

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Under the plan, the Baptist Federation of Canada would have one member. Currently it is allowed three but only has one person appointed. The Baptist General Conference would be entitled to eight members. Now it is entitled to three and has two appointed.

The National Baptist Convention of America would be entitled to three members. Now it is entitled to 15 but has only three appointed. The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc. would have one member. It is entitled to 15 but has only two serving.

The North American Baptist Conference would have six members. Now it is entitled to three and has three serving. The Progressive National Baptist Convention would have three members. Now it is entitled to five but has only three appointed. The Seventh Day Baptist General Conference would be entitled to one member. Now it is entitled to three and has three serving.

After Cober and Elder explained the plan, Currin said the disparity between Southern Baptist financial contributions and representation "has been through the years the chief objection" by some Southern Baptists to the Baptist Joint Committee. "The objection is not intended to be critical of the other groups included but is a concern that the level of representation be commensurate with contribution," he said.

Currin added he is "not saying Southern Baptists have to have 90 percent of the representation. What I am asking is that the committee go back and draw up a proposal which takes contributions into account."

Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist representative from Birmingham, Ala., raised the question of issues: "As I talk to Southern Baptists, they don't understand giving Cooperative Program funds to the Baptist Joint Committee when the SBC has taken a stand on issues and the Baptist Joint Committee comes out directly opposite. There is a concern that mainstream thinking of Southern Baptists is not being represented by the Baptist Joint Committee. Southern Baptists don't understand that and it is a real concern."

Cober told Currin he believes "there is a real advantage in saying that the Baptist Joint Committee represents nine Baptist bodies and 24 million members." He added he does not favor a "Southern Baptist committee where a few of us are allowed to participate once in a while."

Elizabeth J. Miller, secretary of the office of issue development of national ministries of the ABC, suggested members think about what it means to be a joint committee. "Being a joint committee demands that people work together and come to decision together," she said. "How can the committee be a joint committee if one denomination has half of the members?"

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he would "hate to see the matter of representation boil down to a matter of finances. In missions involvement, we have never gauged that whoever had the money got the votes."

Elder said Baptist work always has featured "Baptists in areas of strong resources paying the cost of work in weaker areas."

C.J. Malloy Jr., general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, said he has "greatly appreciated" working with the BJCPA and said if his convention had funds, he would put more into the work of the Joint Committee. "But we don't have it," he said.

"I know that \$18,000 across the past six years doesn't sound like much to you, but it is a lot to us. We are glad to make an effort to contribute, but if this is going to be a Southern Baptist committee working on Southern Baptist causes, then I am not going to participate. If it is a committee where there is participation by all of the other groups, then I will continue to work to give as much as we can."

After Currin's motion was rejected, committee members voted to approve the new representation plan with only Currin and Smith voting against it. They had been joined in the effort to have it referred by J.I. Ginnings, a Southern Baptist representative from Wichita Falls, Texas. When it came to a vote on the plan, Ginnings told the committee he would vote for it. "It appears to me this (participation in the BJCPA) is more of a Southern Baptist problem," he said. "I don't believe this issue will be resolved here. I am going to vote for it."

Ginnings referred to a special seven-member fact-finding committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee in September to study the relationship of the SBC to the BJCPA. Three members of the committee attended the session of the BJCPA. The committee was named in response to a motion--made during the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC--which sought to withdraw funding from the BJCPA and to establish "an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington."

When the BJCPA adopted the recommended revision of representation, the committee also authorized the staff to make necessary adjustments in the group's constitution. To become effective, the plan will have to be adopted by the governing bodies of the nine constituent groups.

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Joint Committee Passes
Resolution On Textbooks

Baptist Press
10/9/86

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has adopted a resolution expressing concern about textbooks used in the nation's schools.

The resolution notes there "is substantial evidence available from recent studies that many textbooks used in the nation's schools virtually ignore religion, thereby distorting the historical record, denigrating religion and depriving students of knowledge of America's religious heritage."

It calls on "textbook authors and publishers to stop rewriting history and to correct this indefensible distortion of the role of religion in American life" and urges textbook committees "to approve only textbooks that honestly and accurately deal with religion's role in our society."

It "encourages all Baptists to work conscientiously with public school officials to ensure that education about religion is included in appropriate curricular areas in a manner which both conforms to the constitutional principle prohibiting government promotion of religion and provides the treatment that religion deserves."

The resolution originated out of a task force formed by Baptist Joint Committee action last March and was appointed by BJCPA Chairman Wesley Forsline, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

Formation of the task force followed a resolution proposed at the BJCPA's March meeting by Albert Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist committee member from Birmingham, Ala. Smith's resolution, which was overturned, cited a research study conducted by Paul Vitz for the National Institute of Education. It called for recognition of the lack of references to "the history, heritage, beliefs and values" of religion in social studies and American history textbooks.

The task force that framed the resolution adopted Oct. 6 studied and made use of the Vitz study along with similar recent studies conducted by other organizations.

In other matters on the BJCPA's October agenda, the committee:

— Approved a salary study which found that wages paid workers of the Washington-based agency are below equivalent salaries paid workers in the nation's capital. The study recommends adjustments be made as funds are available.

— Adopted a proposed--or "asking"--budget of \$641,710 for 1987-88. The budget includes funding to be requested from the constituent groups, including \$457,485 from the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC will not adopt its 1987-88 budget until the 1987 annual meeting in June.

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McDonough To Be Nominated
Executive Director In Virginia

By Robert Dilday

Baptist Press
10/9/86

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Reginald M. McDonough, executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will be nominated as executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia during its annual meeting Nov. 11-12 in Richmond.

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The association's General Board cleared the way for the action when it unanimously approved the recommendation of its Executive Director Search Committee Oct. 7 in Richmond.

If elected by messengers to the November meeting, McDonough, 50, will become executive director-elect of both the association and the General Board Jan. 1, 1987, and assume full responsibilities March 1.

He would succeed Richard M. Stephenson, who will retire Feb. 28, 1987, after 19 years as executive of the 600,000-member fellowship of Southern Baptist churches in Virginia.

"We are Virginia Baptists in spirit," McDonough told an applauding board following the vote. He and his wife, Joan, were present for all but the brief discussion that followed the search committee's detailed presentation.

James W. Ellis, chairman of the search committee, said, "We have made a choice based on the needs of the office, upon the merit of the nominee and what we understand to be the will of God in our lives. The man we present today is, we believe, God's choice for Virginia Baptists."

Ellis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ashland, Va., and members of the nine-member search committee presented to the General Board the results of their seven-month effort, which they said involved interviewing and evaluating 36 candidates. The list of names was narrowed to three, from which McDonough "emerged" as the unanimous choice of the committee.

In a statement delivered before the vote, McDonough told the board it was a "deeply humbling experience to be considered to lead this great Baptist fellowship."

"I have allowed my name to be put before you because Joan and I feel that God is leading in this process," he said. "I am not here because the controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention has caused me to want to 'jump ship' or because I do not find my present ministry fulfilling."

After promising to address four concerns--missions and evangelism, effective churches, healthy ministers and cooperative relationships--if elected executive director, McDonough described his position in the eight-year-old SBC theological and political debate.

"Theologically, I am a conservative. However, I am not a fundamentalist," he said.

He later noted he considers himself a "moderate-conservative" because he holds several strong convictions, including beliefs in the inspired word of God, religious liberty, church-state separation, freedom of biblical interpretation and cooperation.

McDonough added, "I wish to make it very clear that although my convictions will obviously affect my decision making, I believe an executive director must be the servant of all the people and diligently try to be fair and open to all."

A native of Mount Vernon, Texas, McDonough has held church staff positions in Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas, and several posts at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He has been executive vice president at the SBC Executive Committee since 1981.

He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist College in Marshall, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The McDonoughs have two children.

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Dilday is associate editor of the Religious Herald, newsjournal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Home Mission Board Says
No Aid To Women Pastors

By Jim Newton

Baptist Press
10/9/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have affirmed a long-standing policy that ordination is not a requirement for missionary service, but they have voted not to give future financial support to any woman who is pastor of a local church.

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The 85-member board approved a report from a 10-member committee assigned to study the board's policies concerning ordination during its October meeting.

About a dozen board members voted against the new policy after a motion to delete the provision prohibiting funds to women pastors was defeated.

In other major actions, the board adopted a motion calling for a major emphasis on reaching the cities of America with the gospel, heard a progress report from a new search committee appointed to nominate a president for the board, adopted a record \$73.2 million 1987 budget and gave a standing ovation to a plea for unity by the agency's acting president.

The new policy on ordination permits appointment of ordained women as missionaries and endorsement of ordained women as chaplains, but it prohibits future use of mission board funds to support any woman as pastor of a local church.

Although the new policy moves the board to a slightly more conservative position, several members of the ordination study committee agreed it was a compromise that was the best the committee could recommend.

The study committee recognized ordination is a local-church prerogative, but it acknowledged the board has a responsibility to the Southern Baptist Convention which elects it. "We must be sensitive to the sentiments expressed by the Southern Baptist Convention," the committee said.

M.O. Owens, retired Baptist pastor from Gastonia, N.C., who presented the committee report, said he was referring to a resolution adopted by the SBC in 1984 in Kansas City, Mo. The controversial resolution opposed ordination of women for service in "pastoral functions."

The action in October marked the third time in two years the board had affirmed its policy that ordination is a local-church matter and should not be considered in the appointment of missionaries. This policy was reaffirmed in the March board meetings of 1984 and 1985.

Although the new policy was adopted with little debate, board members had for several years disagreed over appointment of ordained women as missionaries. In March of 1985, the board debated for almost an hour the action of its 25-member executive committee which had earlier approved church pastoral assistance to Debra Griffis-Woodberry, pastor of Broadneck Baptist Mission in Annapolis, Md. In that meeting, the board voted 39 to 32 to reaffirm its policy that ordination is not a criteria for missionary appointment and declined to appoint a committee to study the issue.

Five months later in August, 1985, the board voted 37-34 to appoint Janet Faye Fuller, then serving as an ordained US-2 missionary, as a student work missionary-chaplain to students at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. Later in the same meeting, the directors voted 57-8 to establish a special study committee to develop policy guidelines concerning ordination of missionary personnel.

In their report to the board, the committee recommended no changes be made in the board's relationship to ordained women already serving.

Opposition to the committee's recommendations came from Jim Strickland, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cartersville, Ga. Strickland said the proposal would compromise the board's integrity on the autonomy of the local church.

"We say on one hand that it (ordination) is the prerogative of the local church, but on the other hand, we are voting economic reprisals against the local church which believes God has led them to call a woman pastor, if this is approved," argued Strickland. "We are crossing a line here that there is no precedent for in the entire Southern Baptist Convention. We dare not approve this."

In a count of raised hands, only about 15 board members voted for Strickland's motion to delete the sentence which would have prohibited financial support to a church with a woman pastor.

Earlier during the meeting, Owens had offered another motion adopted by the board urging the staff to "explore to the fullest the task of winning the cities of America to Christ."

Owens said the only way the board can come together in unity is to "take on a task that is bigger than any of us." The challenge of reaching the 50 largest cities in America is such a task, he said.

Bob Banks, executive vice president who has functioned as interim president since the resignation of William G. Tanner in June, told the board the staff is planning a major presentation at the March, 1987, board meeting on the challenge of reaching the cities. Banks also called for unity and reconciliation among board members.

He read a letter from a Florida church Woman's Missionary Union chapter saying the controversy in the SBC had caused so much confusion that they found it difficult "to concentrate on our prayer life, our service and our giving when the focus has become so blurred."

Baptist leaders, they wrote, have been giving lay people "irrelevant and divergent signals that only confuse those of us in the ranks. ... There is a distrust of religious leaders because they have lost their identity as spiritual leaders, and a distrust of Baptist agencies," the letter said.

Banks urged board members to care enough and dare to become an example of reconciliation to the entire convention. "The needs are too great, the opportunities too important and the time factor too critical for us not to make every conceivable effort to pull together in moving forward to do the work that the Father has given us to do," he said. "There are issues. But the great overriding issue is a lost and dying nation, a lost and dying world."

Troy Morrison of Montgomery, Ala., chairman of a recently appointed search committee to nominate a new president, made a brief progress report but brought no recommendations. Morrison, director of church-minister relations for the Alabama Baptist Convention, said he believes God can bring healing and unity to the board.

In August, the directors voted 40-36 to request a previous search committee to resign. They asked the board's officers to appoint a new committee "more representative" of the board constituency.

Morrison, a member of the previous committee who resigned but later was asked to be chairman of the new committee, said he was convinced the action "was caused more by misunderstandings and rumors than anything else."

"However, God may use it to bring us together in greater harmony and unity of purpose than ever before," he said. He urged board members to "put the past behind us and have the kind of Christian spirit that is willing to forgive and forget."

Morrison said the new committee "would not be dominated or intimidated by any special interest group." He welcomed, however, suggestions and recommendations from board members and all Southern Baptists. "I earnestly solicit the prayers of all Southern Baptists that God will lead us to the person whom he would have to be president of the Home Mission Board."

Morrison said recommendations or resumes sent to the original committee must be resubmitted in order to be considered. All records in the hands of the original committee, he said, have been destroyed. Recommendations should be sent to Morrison at P.O. Box 11870, Montgomery, Ala., 36198.

Another committee appointed in August to study whether the board's interfaith witness department should be a part of the missions or evangelism organizational structure reported it needed more time to complete its work because the issue is more complex than it first appeared to be. Board Chairman Clark Hutchinson of Atlanta expressed appreciation for the work the staff of the department has done and is doing.

'Adjustments' Necessary
For BJCPA, Committee Says

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)—The relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will have to be adjusted if the 14.5-million-member denomination continues to participate in the religious liberty organization, a special SBC study committee has determined.

Although the nature and scope of the adjustment were not spelled out, the study committee's chairman, Gary Young, told Baptist Press it is a "given" that if the current relationship "were satisfactory, our committee would not be in existence."

The seven-member fact-finding committee was appointed during the September meeting of the SBC Executive Committee in response to a motion made at the 1986 annual meeting aimed at defunding the BJCPA and creating "an exclusive Southern Baptist presence in Washington."

Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Phoenix, Ariz., said the committee began its study by considering the three options open to the SBC in its relationship with the BJCPA, a 50-year-old religious liberty watchdog organization composed of representatives of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

He noted the options are the "status quo," a "revised status quo" and an "exclusive Southern Baptist presence."

"We (the committee) have a given that if the status quo were satisfactory, our committee would not be in existence. Therefore, the basic question is, 'How can Southern Baptists best be represented in Washington?'" he said.

The BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have been under increasing fire in the Southern Baptist Convention. The motion in the 1986 annual meeting is the fourth time in four years the BJCPA has come before the Executive Committee. In addition, the Joint Committee also survived a 1984 effort to strip away more than \$400,000 budgeted by the SBC to support its work.

The fact-finding committee met briefly in Nashville, Tenn., following its creation and held its first full meeting Oct. 3-4 in Dallas, where it held "brainstorming" sessions before coming up with three "basic assumptions" and two "basic issues."

The committee also voted unanimously to hold all of its fact-finding sessions in open meetings, although it reserved to itself the right to formulate its conclusions in "executive sessions."

The action which created the committee also instructed it to make an interim report to the February 1987 meeting of the Executive Committee and a final report at the Executive Committee's meeting just prior to the 1987 annual meeting next June in St. Louis. Under convention procedures, matters referred to the Executive Committee must be reported back to messengers at the subsequent annual meeting.

In addition to adopting its assumptions and issues, the fact-finding committee also voted to meet at least twice more, once in Washington, with the staff of the BJCPA, committee members and any others who would like to provide information, and again in Nashville, with executives of SBC agencies and other members of the SBC's Public Affairs Committee, which is the means whereby the SBC relates to the BJCPA.

The three basic assumptions adopted by the committee were:

- "We are united in our belief Southern Baptists should have a presence in Washington, D.C.
- "We are united in our support and defense of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment provision which states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.'
- "We are united in our desire that the Southern Baptist Convention have the most effective and efficient voice possible in Washington." ~~—more—~~

The two basic issues phrased as questions were:

— "Is the Baptist Joint Committee, or can the Baptist Joint Committee, be the most effective and efficient voice of Southern Baptists in Washington?"

— "What are the factors to be considered in the establishment of 'an exclusive Southern Baptist Convention presence' in Washington?"

Young said the committee will attempt to find the answers to eight secondary questions on the first issue and seven subsidiary inquiries on the second issue.

Among the issues to be investigated concerning the present organization are such questions as how the BJCPA carries out its present assignment; how much policy is set by the committee, how much by the staff and how much by individuals; how much influence does the SBC have in staff selection, direction or elimination; and how does the BJCPA portray—and discern—the position of the SBC on various issues.

Also to be considered is whether a joint voice in Washington is more effective than a single voice. The BJCPA's nine member bodies include more than 24 million Baptists.

The question of how the SBC relates to the Joint Committee also will be studied. Currently, the SBC appoints a 15-member Public Affairs Committee, 10 of whose members are selected by virtue of the offices they hold as executives of SBC agencies.

Another question is: "How can the Baptist Joint Committee leadership be confrontational when necessary on issues without being combative toward individuals and groups and without becoming politically aligned or partisan within their respective Baptist denominations?"

The fact-finding committee also determined it should study the implications of establishing an SBC office in the nation's capital, such as "moral obligations" to the BJCPA, a proposed timetable, funding, personnel, possible structures, relationships and the drawing of a program statement which would sort through the problems of overlapping the responsibilities of the BJCPA and the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, which deals with moral, social and political issues other than the separation of church and state and religious liberty.

In addition to drawing up the scope of its work, the fact-finding committee also named three subcommittees to begin the process of gathering information.

Chairman Young and members Paul Pressler, an appeals court judge from Houston, and Frank Ingraham, an attorney from Nashville, were deputized to attend the October meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee and its subsequent Religious Liberty Conference.

Ingraham and James Jones, pastor of Campbellville (Ky.) Baptist Church, were assigned to begin looking into determining what information should be sought and what sources should be included.

James Yates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Yazoo City, Miss., and Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., were assigned to collecting the history of the BJCPA and overseeing an "integrated review" of materials, including newspaper articles.

In addition to Young, Pressler, Ingraham, Yates and Robinson, other members of the committee are Carolyn Miller, a homemaker from Huntsville, Ala., and Frank Lady, an attorney from Jonesboro, Ark. Jones, chairman of the Executive Committee's administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee, and David Maddox, a real estate developer from Fullerton, Calif., and chairman of the Executive Committee, are ex-officio members of the study group.

Young asked any person who wishes to provide information or make comment on the work of the fact-finding committee to write to him at First Southern Baptist Church, 3100 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, Ariz. 85017, or to Yates, the vice chairman, at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 12, Yazoo City, Miss. 39194.

Midwestern Initiates
Correlated Degree Plan

By Trennis Henderson

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A dozen students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are participating in a new degree plan designed to "relate their college and seminary work more effectively and more productively," seminary President Milton Ferguson announced.

The program of study, Master of Divinity: Correlated, was initiated at the Kansas City, Mo., school this fall as a five-year pilot project. A first for any Southern Baptist seminary, it is open to graduates of Baptist colleges who have majored in religion, maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average and been recommended for the program by their college religion department.

In its initial year, the correlated program is limited to 12 students. Those 12 come from nine Baptist colleges in seven states.

Midwestern Academic Dean Larry Baker said the goal of the program "is to provide the student the opportunity to build on what he already has and to fashion his degree in a more personal manner." He said that is accomplished by offering "a greatly reduced core of required classes and greatly increased electives, providing more options and tailoring for the student."

Like Midwestern's more traditional Master of Divinity: Comprehensive degree, the correlated degree requires 88 hours of seminary academic credit. The difference, Baker noted, is how those 88 hours are structured.

"There is no way to correlate unless we take seriously where the students have been, where they are and where they're going," Baker explained. During the students' initial eight-week term, they participate in an intensive educational experience called "foundations for theological education."

Taught this fall by a four-member core teaching team, the term's foundational topics include biblical, theological-historical and ministry studies. "In the first eight weeks," said Baker, "we want to see what the students can do and what they know, let them begin to experience theological education and then launch into the rest of their seminary education."

Doug Crabb, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, described the first eight weeks as "a very positive experience for me. The curriculum has been very effective in bringing together my undergraduate work with exposure to new material."

Upon the successful completion of the foundations study, each student will earn 20 hours of academic credit. That will be followed by work with Baker to tailor their remaining seminary training to their individual interests, needs and goals. That process results in the students being able to complete the Master of Divinity degree in two years rather than the traditional three.

President Ferguson emphasized the program's "primary purpose is integration and correlation; it is not primarily acceleration."

Agreeing "the abbreviated time is a secondary benefit rather than a primary one," Baker remarked, "For the student, one major benefit is that he is not, by design, repeating work that he may have had previously. He builds on the studies he's already had and moves ahead."

Jack Perkins, a graduate of Louisiana College in Pineville, said he viewed the program "as something that would give credibility to the work I had done in college. I saw it as something to challenge me to move into deeper studies."

Fellow student Jim Freed, an alumnus of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., said the class members are "learning how to study and how to learn. What interested me was the opportunity to add on to what I'd already learned" at the undergraduate level.

New Testament Professor Hulitt Gloer, a member of the core teaching team, said the concept of a correlated degree program "is really a question of stewardship--being the best stewards we can be with the time we have with each student."

Pointing to the students' opportunity for greater depth of study, Gloer continued, "This has tremendous potential for impacting how we approach seminary education as Southern Baptists. I think we're setting a precedent that will be picked up by others, both inside and outside our denomination."

In addition to aiding qualified students, the program also promises to be of benefit to participating Baptist colleges.

"Rather than creating a two-year program, this is actually expanding a three-year program to a six-year program, with four years taking place at the undergraduate level, noted Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "It puts the spotlight on our undergraduate Baptist colleges to strengthen our pre-seminary classes."

Charles Martin, vice president for academic affairs at Mississippi College in Clinton, noted more than 50 percent of students entering Southern Baptist seminaries have not attended Southern Baptist colleges. "If we're in the business, we ought to make a program to meet students' needs to make them want to come" to Baptist colleges, he said. "Just the very fact that Midwestern's program is coordinated is important. You don't want to overstructure preparation for ministry, but there should be some general guidelines."

In addition to the Master of Divinity: Correlated degree, Midwestern also has implemented a related Master of Divinity: Concentrated degree. Also designed for the Baptist college graduate who is a religion major, the program combines aspects of the correlated and comprehensive programs. Requiring three years to complete, it allows for in-depth study without repetition.

"What we're really saying," Baker explained, "is that ministry education is important enough that we as a seminary want to work with the colleges."

"We're interested in doing a better job in equipping our God-called men and women for education and training," Ferguson added. "If our colleges and seminaries work together more closely, surely the students will benefit from it."

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Home Mission Board Adopts
\$73.2 Million 1987 Budget

By Joe Westbury

Baptist Press
10/9/86

ATLANTA (BP)—Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board adopted a record \$73,190,555 budget for 1987, added new staff members and appointed 25 missionaries.

The new budget represents an increase of \$5 million, or 7.4 percent, over the 1986 budget. Nearly \$25 million will come from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, while \$29 million is expected to be given through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

In personnel matters, the board promoted two existing staff members and elected two new employees. Robert Edgar Wiley, associate director of the associational missions division, was promoted to director of the division. He succeeds Jim Lewis, who has joined the staff of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Dale Wesley Cross, director of metropolitan evangelism strategy in the associational evangelism department, was promoted to director of the department. Cross succeeds Ken Carter, who was elevated to director of the evangelism development division.

New staff member Billy D. Donovan of Oklahoma City was elected director of the department of institutional and business-industrial chaplaincy. Donovan succeeds Huey Perry, who previously was named director of the division. Donovan currently is administrator of religious programs for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

Ronald G. Barker of Atlanta was elected associate director of the personal evangelism department. Previously a national consultant in Continuous Witness Training for the board, Barker's responsibilities will include national implementation of the program.

In other matters, the board appointed eight missionaries, four missionary associates, six church planter apprentices, one national consultant and approved six individuals for language pastoral assistance.

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