



- - **BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Alvin C. Shackelford, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Marv Knox, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA *Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041*
DALLAS *Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 720-0550*
NASHVILLE *(Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300*
RICHMOND *(Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151*
WASHINGTON *Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226*

November 21, 1988

88-186

California Baptists
Vote to change name

ANAHEIM, Calif. (BP)--Messengers to the 48th annual session of The Southern Baptist General Convention of California decided the convention's name was too long, but also decided to retain the controversial "Southern" in the new title.

The new name is "California Southern Baptist Convention." The name-change issue has been debated for the past three annual meetings, mostly over whether "Southern" should be retained in any new name. During those earlier meetings, votes for "California Baptist Convention" indicated a majority of messengers wanted to drop "Southern," but that name never received the necessary two-thirds vote to change the constitution.

The 1,350 messengers meeting at Disneyland Hotel Convention Center in Anaheim also elected Anaheim pastor John Jackson president in a run-off ballot, topping Bakersfield pastor Sid Peterson by four votes. Jackson is pastor of Crescent Southern Baptist Church.

Max Kell, Sacramento pastor, was elected first vice president. K. Galen Greenwalt, Twentynine Palms pastor, was elected second vice president.

An expected debate over the financial condition of the convention-owned college centered around whether the convention itself needed to approved any sale of college property. The attempt to require convention approval for any sale was defeated, as was a proposal to add trustees from other western states to help stimulate out-of-state student interest in California Baptist College in Riverside.

The college earlier announced it was restructuring its debt, which includes a current fund deficit of more than \$1.5 million and a total debt of more than \$3 million, through longterm loans. It does not anticipate a balanced budget until fiscal year 1990-91. The sale or lease of 15.5 acres of college property deemed excess in the school's long-range plan is expected to provide some income to repay the loans.

Another contested issue was the executive board's recommendation to tie Cooperative Program unified budget percentage increases from the state convention to the Southern Baptist Convention to a formula based on gifts from local churches. If the total gifts from the churches increase, as derived from the annual church letters, then the portion sent to the Southern Baptist Convention from the state will increase by the same percentage. If the churches' percentage decreases, the percentage from the state to the SBC will stay the same as the previous year.

Messengers approved a 1989 budget of \$12.2 million. California churches are expected to contribute about \$6.2 million of the total, with the balance to be provided by outside sources, primarily the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards.

California Baptists will support the worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention by providing 28.75 percent of the receipts from their churches, or \$1,718,244 to the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

Messengers also voted to change the location of the 1989 meeting from Santa Rosa to Redding upon the request of the Santa Rosa host association, which indicated adequate facilities would not be available next year. The meeting will be held Nov. 14-15.

Maryland/Delaware rejects
adding BFM to constitution

FREDERICK, Md. (BP)--Maryland/Delaware Baptists rejected a recommendation to add the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement to their constitution and bylaws and averted a contested presidential election, choosing each of their officers by acclamation during their annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Frederick, Md.

Messengers to the 153rd annual session of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware also approved purchase of a \$2.1 million building to be remodeled for relocation of convention offices from Lutherville, Md., to a more centrally located site in Columbia, Md.

In other action, Maryland/Delaware Baptists denounced apartheid, supported the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and appointed a task team to address ways to help new missions acquire land sites in areas with high real estate costs.

Messengers rejected a recommendation of the convention's general mission board that a section be added to their constitution adopting the Baptist Faith and Message as the convention's expression of faith. The negative vote came after an amendment was added specifying "with the understanding that this convention has no authority to prescribe this statement as a statement of faith for any church, association or individual."

Predictions about contested presidential elections by leaders of both conservative and moderate theological/political organizations within the convention failed to materialize. Host pastor Burnis Barrett of First Baptist Church of Fredericksburg received a nearly unanimous vote for president.

Barrett, a Maryland pastor for 22 years, told the Baptist True Union, newsjournal for the convention: "I have intentionally and almost spontaneously refrained from identifying with either group of the controversy. ... I have no intention to be identified in terms of a controversy."

Other officers are Ward Holland, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Baltimore, first vice president; Fred Horton, a retired foreign missionary to Japan, second vice president; Rene Olivier, pastor of First Baptist Church of Brunswick, Md., recording secretary; and Calvin Hudson, pastor of Second and Fourth Baptist Church in Baltimore, assistant recording secretary.

Along with approving the purchase of the Baptist Building site, messengers rescinded action taken by the convention in 1986 to build new offices on property owned by a BCM/D church near Columbia. Difficulty in obtaining a special-use exemption from zoning restrictions caused the general mission board to recommend a new direction in the relocation process.

The four-year-old existing building is located near the geographical center of the convention and in the midst of the populous Baltimore-Washington corridor. Costs for purchase and remodeling are expected to be financed in large part or in whole by sale of the current Baptist Building, constructed by the convention in 1965 at a cost of \$350,000.

In a sparsely attended closing session, about 125 of 863 registered messengers and visitors adopted motions on apartheid and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The first motion was submitted originally as a resolution but not reported by the convention's resolutions committee, which adopted a rationale of recommending only non-controversial resolutions.

Bill Warren, pastor of Allen Memorial Baptist Church in Salisbury, introduced the motion to "emphatically denounce apartheid in South Africa" and to "encourage the trustees of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to issue a public statement repudiating the repressive system of institutionalized racism called apartheid."

The motion alluded to widely quoted isolated remarks attributed to a CLC trustee in September, who said apartheid "doesn't exist anymore" and was "beneficial when it did."

A second motion, introduced by James Painter, pastor of Spence Baptist Church in Snow Hill, Md., authorized the general mission board to "take appropriate action to continue Maryland/Delaware Baptists' historical and traditional support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs" should the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee choose to alter its 52-year relationship with the Washington religious liberty agency by allocating funds away from the BJCPA and to the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee. The PAC is Southern Baptists' representation on the BJCPA, a coalition of nine Baptist denominations.

Messengers also adopted a motion by R. Stephen Kirk, pastor of Quince Orchard Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, Md., that a task team be formed to explore and analyze methods to acquire and fund land sites for new churches in Maryland and Delaware. The motion asked the committee to report concrete proposals at next year's annual meeting and to develop a cohesive, creative strategy among the convention's various committees, societies and associations.

In other business, Maryland/Delaware Baptists adopted a 1989 budget of \$4,400,914. Churches in the convention are expected to provide \$2,760,388, with the balance coming from outside sources, primarily the Southern Baptist Home Mission and Sunday School boards.

Maryland/Delaware Baptists are to provide 40.75 percent of the funds they contribute, or \$1,124,858, to support Southern Baptists' worldwide causes. That percentage is a 0.5 percent increase over the 1988 budget.

The 1989 annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 13-15 in Annapolis, Md.

--30--

Kentuckians elect Jones,
OK \$20.5 million budget

Baptist Press
11/21/88

OWENSBORO, Ky. (BP)--Kentucky Baptists elected Campbellsville pastor James E. Jones as convention president and ratified a \$20.5 million budget during their annual meeting in Owensboro Nov. 15-17.

Jones is pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church. Other officers are Harold F. Skaggs, pastor of Cadiz Baptist Church in Cadiz, first vice president; Robert F. Browning, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset, second vice president; Doris Yeiser, part-time Kentucky Baptist Convention archivist from Middletown, secretary; and G. Allen West Jr., retired minister and denominational worker from Louisville, assistant secretary.

In other business, messengers to the meeting voted to delete one-half day from future annual meetings and accepted several constitution and bylaw changes proposed by a convention committee.

The new budget, with an operating goal of \$17,717,289, is viewed as "a realistic projection" by convention officials. In addition to the basic operating goal, the budget includes a challenge section of \$1.3 million and \$1,525,000 in estimated additional income. The budget totals \$20,542,289.

By a previously defined formula, the percentage of gifts going from Kentucky to Southern Baptist causes will be increased 0.625 percent in the 1989-90 projections, to 38.75 percent of the basic goal, or \$6,865,449.

The convention intends to increase the share of its budget that goes to Southern Baptist efforts to 40 percent by 1990.

With no discussion and few dissenting votes, messengers agreed to eliminate the traditional final half day of their annual sessions beginning in 1990. The move consolidates seven sessions into six. When effective, the convention will open Tuesday morning and conclude Wednesday evening.

Messengers also approved on second reading a change to assign to the convention's committee on nominations responsibility to nominate candidates for vacancies on the KBC executive board between annual meetings.

--more--

The convention adopted a covenant agreement with Western Recorder, its weekly newspaper, declaring its ownership of and responsibility for the assets and liabilities of the paper. The convention then thanked and dismissed a special committee studying the liability, ownership and dissolution provisions of all KBC agencies and institutions after four years' work. Covenants with the other convention entities were adopted in previous annual sessions.

In one of the few matters introduced by messengers, the convention dealt with a motion concerning a Baptist agency outside the KBC.

Malcolm G. Lunce, retired pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, requested financial assistance for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Washington-based church-state agency comprised of nine Baptist conventions. Southern Baptists' more conservative members have criticized the Baptist Joint Committee for taking positions they say are too liberal, and the Southern Baptist contribution to the committee's budget was reduced this fiscal year.

Lunceford's motion asked Kentucky Baptists to appropriate \$2,500 from unrestricted funds this year and additional funding in future years based on "proportional share" formula if Baptist Joint Committee funds continue to be withheld.

After debate, messengers voted to refer the matter to a seven-member ad hoc committee for study and recommendation to the 1989 convention. The committee is to be named by outgoing KBC President Howard Cobble.

Another messenger's suggestion that the convention hold annual meetings "no later than the last week in October" was referred to the committee on arrangements. Still another that would integrate the committees of the executive board into the committees of the convention was referred to the constitution and bylaws committee.

By previous action, next year's convention session will be held at Capital Plaza Civic Center in Frankfort, Nov. 14-16, and the 1990 session will be at at First Baptist Church of Paducah, Nov. 13-14.

Messengers set the 1991 session at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington but set no date.

The lone resolution of the meeting praised the host church, host city and convention officials for their hospitality and leadership during the convention's 151st annual session.

--30--

Zimbabwe welcomes
Baptists' refugee aid

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
11/21/88

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)--Human need makes strange partners.

Zimbabwe, a sovereign, socialist African nation, has welcomed a host of outside agencies -- including the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board -- to help it care for thousands of refugees escaping the civil war in neighboring Mozambique.

Millions of refugees from Mozambique have streamed into South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. All of those countries, with the exception of South Africa, have their own internal economic problems. International debt payments and the struggle to develop their own economies strained on their budgets.

War refugees pose problems for any country which opens its door, and budget, to them, international observers note. Refugees bring little wealth and often no skills beyond subsistence farming. They strain medical systems and compete with the host country's own poor for jobs at the lowest economic level. Sometimes the war they flee follows them across the border.

Zimbabwe has absorbed an estimated 80,000 Mozambican refugees in the past few years.

--more--

Relief agencies may work in Zimbabwe, but they are channeled through coordinating committees headed by A.D. Mukwewa, the government's minister for refugees. Despite the socialist stance of President Robert Mugabe's government, membership on the committees is capitalist -- the more money given, the more power received in committee.

Participating agencies say that arrangement has prevented waste, extended resources and cut down on graft, the bane of all relief work. It also has allowed Baptists in Zimbabwe to develop good working relationships with several government officials.

For more than three years, the government had wanted to build an entirely new refugee camp in southeastern Zimbabwe to relieve overcrowding in the four existing camps. But Baptists made construction possible.

"We had been talking, talking, talking, but nothing was happening," Mukwewa says. "When I heard the Baptists offer to spend \$500,000 (about \$300,000 in U.S. dollars) to put in the water system, I said, 'God sent you.' For years we had groups offering food and training programs and health care and other things. But we can't build a camp without water, and no one would commit to that."

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials approved a request from missionaries in Zimbabwe for Southern Baptist relief funds. Immediately the name of Richard Cockrum, a Southern Baptist volunteer from Afton, Tenn., jumped to the No. 2 spot on the water development subcommittee -- right behind Mukwewa. Plans for the water system in the new camp proceeded.

The Zimbabwe government, which previously had forbidden any news coverage of the refugees, also allowed a Southern Baptist news team to visit the existing Nyangombe camp on a "controlled tour" escorted by Mukwewa.

Mozambican refugees entering Zimbabwe are registered, screened to see if they might belong to the Mozambique rebel force, then transported to one of the camps. There they undergo a second round of registration, receive blankets, clothes and food and are assigned a tent. The tent is their temporary home until they can build a permanent structure from the gum poles and elephant grass the government gives them.

Any refugees with usable skills work in the camp, and any who want to be trained in skills such as carpentry, construction, sewing or baking are enrolled in classes.

At Nyangombe, a "business district" bustles between the tents and one of the permanent housing areas. Shops owned by resident refugees sell soft drinks, bread and candy.

During the news tour, Mukwewa pointed with pride to numerous Blair toilets -- special construction ensures they are sanitary -- permanent school buildings and community kitchens.

Relief groups are funding most of the food, clothing, medical care and training. The government provides police and administration and fills in the gaps.

Chambuta, the new camp with the "Baptist" water supply, will have a population of 20,000 people and will be patterned after Nyangombe. That means clean water, schools, skills training, medical care, sports programs, sanitary toilets and planned housing developments. The refugees also will receive food, blankets and clothing.

The refugee camps are located in sparsely settled rural areas where earlier government planning had identified future sites of cities. When the refugees return to Mozambique, the infrastructure of schools, medical and government buildings, water systems and roads will be in place for settlement by Zimbabweans.

"Obviously, we are motivated to help the refugees because we want to help ease their suffering," says Cockrum, who is both director of the Mozambican relief aid provided by Southern Baptist missionaries in Zimbabwe and coordinator of Baptist refugee relief work for all of southern Africa. "But the primary motivation is to share Jesus Christ with them."

--more--

Evangelism plans are built around churches from the Baptist association nearest Chambuta and the two workers in the Baptist relief program. "Once we finish the water system and the camp is built, we won't just disappear," Cockrum explains. "We will be using our trucks to haul food and building poles."

Nearby churches will be trained to evangelize and conduct Bible studies in the camp. When enough refugees are converted, Baptists hope to build a church. When requested, the government has been open to allowing religious groups to build meeting places. Refugees who can read will be enrolled in Bible correspondence study.

Last winter Cockrum supervised the drilling of a 198-foot-deep borehole that will provide water for construction crews and serve as an emergency backup water supply for a medical clinic once the camp is operational.

At government request, the Baptists also are studying the feasibility of an irrigation project to grow the vegetables the camp needs. Cockrum estimates the irrigation project will require 10 times more water than the current Baptist effort to provide drinking water for 20,000 people.

But alongside any "Baptist" water will be an evangelical, Christian witness. That, Cockrum says, "is what it's all about."

--30--

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press

Wyoming honors
missions pioneer

Baptist Press
11/21/88

GILLETTE, Wyo. (BP)--Missions pioneer O.R. (Benny) Delmar was honored by messengers to the fifth annual Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention Nov. 16-17 at Antelope Valley Baptist Church in Gillette.

Delmar, who turned 70 in August, will retire Dec. 31 as director of associational missions of the Old Faithful and Powder River Baptist associations in northeastern Wyoming. Delmar began First Southern Baptist Church in Casper in 1951 and has been associated with church starting and associational missions work in the Northern Plains area for nearly 40 years.

In 1968, when the Northern Plains Baptist Convention was formed, Delmar was director of missions for all of Wyoming. In 1976, he worked in the northern half of the state, and, since 1984, he has had the northeastern quarter. He also worked in Montana and South Dakota.

This year, after 20 years of existence, Northern Plains Convention disbanded. Out of it has grown Wyoming's convention and the Montana and Dakotas fellowships.

John Thomason, executive director in Wyoming, said, "The best we can figure, Benny has been personally involved in starting 140 churches, 14 associations and three state conventions."

Messengers gave Delmar a plaque, a watch and passed a resolution of appreciation.

In other business, messengers adopted a budget of \$901,000, of which \$276,000 will be contributed by the 70 churches and 13 missions affiliated with the convention. Of the undesignated contributions, 24.5 percent, or \$68,620, will be given to support the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, up 1 percent from 1988.

Lee Feeler, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Cheyenne, was elected president. George Massingale, pastor of North Casper Baptist Mission and Evansville Baptist Chapel in Casper, was elected first vice president, and Robert Weant, pastor of Grace Southern Baptist Church in Greybull, was named second vice president.

A director for Woman's Missionary Union work in Wyoming was elected. Ann Brack, who has been Acteens director for the Alabama Baptist Convention, will assume her new post early in 1989.

The 1989 annual meeting will be Nov. 15-16 at Boyd Avenue Baptist Church in Casper.

--30--