

May 9, 1958

**Committee Seeks Man
To Succeed Leavell**

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--A Baptist newspaper editor heads a seven-man trustee committee to nominate a successor to Roland Q. Leavell, who retired May 1 as president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The committee, of which S. H. Jones, Greenville, S. C., editor of the Baptist Courier, is chairman hopes to nominate a new president before the opening of a new school term in the Fall.

Leavell, who had been president of the seminary since 1946, asked to retire. On Jan. 19, he suffered a cerebral thrombosis which confined him to the hospital for a month.

He is now recuperating at home, but is yet partially disabled by the effects of the illness. The trustees of the seminary, after accepting his request to retire, elected Leavell president emeritus.

J. Wash Watts, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, has been serving as acting president since Leavell's illness. He will continue to be acting president until further action by the trustees.

Leavell came to the seminary presidency from pastorate of First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla. He is member of a family which have served in many places of Christian responsibility, either as full-time denominational and church workers or as laymen and women.

Leavell became president just as the seminary assumed its new identity and role among Southern Baptist institutions. Prior to 1946, it was known as Baptist Bible Institute. Leavell was the first president under seminary status.

During Leavell's administration, the seminary moved to its new suburban campus on Gentilly Blvd. in New Orleans. The schools of theology and religious education received accreditation during his presidency.

The seminary is observing its 40th anniversary. It recently broke ground for a new seminary chapel. Leavell, despite the illness, was present and participated in ceremonies starting construction of the chapel.

In the last dozen years, the enrollment of the seminary has about tripled-- from 331 to 1,000. Its faculty has increased proportionately, from 10 to 37 members.

In other action the board authorized a committee to study the plan to lengthen the seminary school year from the present 40 weeks, two 16-week semesters and an eight-week summer session, to 48 weeks or three 16-week semesters.

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**States Conduct Program
In Vocational Fields**

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Baptists in at least four states have begun a program to guide their young people who have been called into church-related vocations.

The states of Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina have held special conferences, which hundreds of young people--mostly high school upperclassmen--have attended.

These conferences have lasted for one or two days, generally including a Saturday so that the young persons will miss as few school classes as possible.

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Tennessee apparently was the first to have church-related vocations conference, conducting one at Camp Carson in East Tennessee in the spring of 1957. 200 young persons were there. Tennessee followed it with another conference, attended by 150, at Camp Linden in the western area in 1958.

North Carolina scheduled four one-day regional conferences. Those in Kentucky and Florida were statewide, the one in Jacksonville in 1958 drawing 730 young persons.

The program at conferences has included addresses by state and Southern Baptist Convention denominational leaders, panel discussions in special areas of church-related vocations, and usually testimonies from the students themselves about their calls and their hopes and plans for the future.

All conferences have been held at the initiative of Baptists in the state where conducted. However, the church-related vocations counselling office at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, has furnished help also.

"The conferences have been held to conserve the results of commitments made by young people to church-related vocations," according to John M. Tubbs, Nashville, church-related vocations counsellor with the Sunday School Board.

"The development of these conferences can be attributed to the general growing interest to give these young people more guidance," Tubbs continued. The state Baptist sponsorship of such conferences has been stimulated by the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention created a church-related vocations committee two years ago and that the Sunday School Board later employed a counsellor in the field.

"This is not, however, the first time Southern Baptists have become concerned about their young people committed to church-related vocations," Tubbs reported. The Training Union, (college) student departments, Girls' Auxiliary, and Royal Ambassadors have been among those giving guidance through their own organizations.

The statewide conference represents an effort cutting across organizational lines to reach all young people.

Tubbs reported that the Sunday School Board counselling office has been in touch with 3600 young people across the Convention who are volunteers for church-related vocations. It has also published a commitment card designed to help both the states and the Convention keep in better contact with those called into these vocations.

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Wake Forest College
Acting Dean Chosen

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.--(BP)--Edwin G. Wilson, assistant dean at Wake Forest College here has been appointed acting dean of the college effective July 1.

He succeeds William C. Archie who is resigning to become dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Emory University.

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BP Folks and Facts.....

.....David Talley, of Knoxville, Tenn., has been elected temporary director of the Baptist Student Union at Georgia Teachers College, Statesboro.

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