

June 22, 1958

Southwestern Trustees Elect Naylor President

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Robert E. Naylor, pastor of Travis Ave. Baptist Church here and chairman of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees, has been elected president of the seminary.

The vote of the trustees was unanimous. Naylor, who has guided the seminary's administration since April 20 when the late President J. Howard Williams died, did not immediately announce his decision on the call to be president.

It had been reported for several weeks that Naylor, a Southwestern alumnus, was the principal person under consideration for the presidency.

Thurmond George, pastor of First Baptist Church, Duncan, Okla., and member of the trustees, made the announcement of the trustees' action. He said that William Fleming, millionaire Fort Worth layman and benefactor to Southwestern Seminary and numerous other Baptist causes, was elected new chairman of the trustees.

Southwestern Seminary is the second oldest among the six seminaries owned and operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. It was founded in 1908 and is presently observing its 50th anniversary.

Naylor delivered the Convention Sermon when the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention met in Houston.

Naylor is a native of Hartshorne, Okla., born Jan. 24, 1909. He lived in several cities in eastern Oklahoma during childhood and graduated from Ada, Okla., High School.

He is a graduate of East Central (Okla.) State Teachers College in Ada, and received his master of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary in 1932. Ouachita College, Baptist institution in Arkadelphia, Ark., conferred an honorary doctor of divinity degree on Naylor in 1941.

Naylor's pastorates have included the First Baptist Churches of Nashville, Malvern, and Arkadelphia, all in Arkansas; First Baptist Church, Enid, Okla., and First Baptist Church, Columbia, S. C. He has been with Travis Ave. Church since 1952.

Denominational offices have included membership on the executive boards of Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Baptist General Convention of Texas, trustee of South Carolina Baptist Hospital, and a member of the board of Southern Baptist Foundation.

He is the author of the book "The Baptist Deacon," published by Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn., in 1955. Naylor is a frequent contributor to quarterlies, magazines, and other periodicals published by Southern Baptists.

Travel outside the United States has included trips to the Holy Land and Europe.

The election of Naylor, if the call is accepted, will fill one of two vacancies existing in the administrative leadership of Southern Baptist seminaries. Both Southwestern and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminaries have been without presidents.