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November 13, 1992

92-191

NASHVILLE -- Integrity, Chapman says, calls CBF to separate itself from SBC.
NASHVILLE -- Reconsider stands on abortion, homosexuality, Land urges Clinton.
COLOMBIA -- Missionary abducted, then freed in Colombia.
LOUISIANA -- Louisiana Baptists use constitution to exclude pro-homosexual churches.
MISSISSIPPI -- Mississippi Baptists hedge on Clinton-Gore affirmation.
OKLAHOMA -- Economic hard times cited as Oklahomans adopt budget.
GEORGIA -- New president, exec. director highlight GBC annual meeting.
NASHVILLE -- Correction.

Integrity, Chapman says, calls
CBF to separate itself from SBC

By Art Toalston

Baptist Press
11/13/92

MOORE, Okla. (BP)--As a matter of integrity, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should separate itself from the Southern Baptist Convention, said SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman Nov. 11.

"Their greatest integrity," Chapman said of the CBF, "would be openly declaring they no longer are cooperating Southern Baptists, rather than claiming to be Southern Baptists and trying to draw funds from good-hearted, grass-roots Southern Baptists."

Chapman made the comment during an interview with The Daily Oklahoman of Oklahoma City.

He confirmed his position to Baptist Press Nov. 13. Neither CBF's Atlanta-based coordinator Cecil Sherman nor CBF moderator Pat Ayers of Austin, Texas, were available for comment the afternoon of Nov. 13.

CBF members and "mainstream" Southern Baptists seem unlikely to overcome their differences, Chapman told the newspaper's religion editor, Pat Gilliland. "Every indication points to the fact that they are a denomination in the making," he said.

Meanwhile within the SBC, Chapman said, "Southern Baptists have continually elected in this era conservative Southern Baptists because they wanted to stay latched to the Bible as God's inspired Word."

Chapman's statements follow a Nov. 6 Baptist Press article in which he voiced concern over CBF's promotion of its "Global Missions Offering" in 700 Southern Baptist churches, seeking to meet a \$2 million goal.

The promotion's timing parallels the SBC's traditional Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions, with a goal this year of \$84 million to support the work of some 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries in 126 countries.

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Targeting the CBF offering's theme, "Keeping the Promises," Chapman stated: "Don't let anybody tell you that Southern Baptists have lost their long-held vision for world missions. We do need the help of every Southern Baptist church. I have great faith that our Southern Baptist churches, with very few exceptions, will not participate in anything which attempts to undermine our world missions efforts through the Cooperative Program and special missions offerings."

In a statement to Baptist Press Nov. 13, Chapman said: "It must be understood there is a difference between being a moderate and being a member of the CBF. Not all moderates in the SBC are members of the CBF. In fact, many moderates are loyal to the Southern Baptist Convention and are strong supporters of the Cooperative Program.

"The CBF is a different story," Chapman continued. "The CBF is competing against our missions organizations for gifts and manpower while claiming to be loyal Southern Baptists.

"While Southern Baptists have always been approached with alternative funding requests such as those from Campus Crusade, the new distinctive with the CBF is the antagonism against the Cooperative Program. Given this antagonism, how can a person be loyal to both the SBC and the CBF at the same time?"

Chapman added: "The CBF often refers to its diversity. The truth is that much more diversity exists in the Southern Baptist Convention. The SBC encompasses conservatives and moderates in more than 38,000 churches; we worship in 101 languages each Sunday. You will find -- and will continue to find -- a wide range of perspectives among those who work for our seminaries, agencies and Baptist Press network."

CBF promotional materials say allocation plans for its offering involve \$345,000 for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, (an institution defunded last year by the SBC Foreign Mission Board); \$1.2 million for "missioners" the CBF has employed in Europe, currently numbering eight former FMB personnel, with plans to expand to 20 by January; and \$455,000 for relief for hungry and homeless people.

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Reconsider stands on abortion,
homosexuality, Land urges Clinton

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press
11/13/92

WASHINGTON (BP)--The head of the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics and public policy agency has urged fellow Southern Baptist and President-elect Bill Clinton to reconsider his support of abortion and homosexual rights.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said in a Nov. 12 letter Southern Baptists "remain unalterably committed to the protection of unborn human life and opposed to special, protected civil rights status for sexual preference."

"Therefore, we earnestly plead with you prayerfully to reconsider your stated positions on abortion on demand and special civil rights status for homosexuals."

In a news conference the same day in Little Rock, Clinton reiterated his intention to remove the ban on homosexuals serving in the United States military and his plan to overturn rules preventing the use of federal funds for abortion counseling, referral and promotion in family planning clinics.

"We urge you to affirm those moral values which have made America great," Land wrote. "We appeal to you to be tolerant of all people, but not tolerant of wrong-doing. Accord dignity and worth to all, but do not dignify sin and vice, no matter how common. Please do not treat immoral human behavior as being of equal worth to right conduct and virtue."

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The letter to Clinton is being reprinted in the November-December issue of Salt, the CLC's public policy newsletter.

In the same issue, Land says in a commentary, "We pledge to you as Southern Baptists that the Christian Life Commission will: 1) seek to work with President Clinton in areas where there is agreement, 2) attempt to make his administration aware of Southern Baptists' convictions and concerns on a whole array of issues, and 3) oppose his policies when they contradict those convictions and concerns just as we did with President Bush. As I have said before, the CLC serves God and the Southern Baptist Convention, not any candidate, government official or political party."

The letter is an "implementation of that pledge," Land said on the telephone.

The CLC executive told Clinton in the letter Southern Baptists support some positions he and Vice President-elect Al Gore, also a Southern Baptist, hold. Cited in the letter were the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and legislation requiring warning messages in print and broadcast alcohol advertising. Land also said fellow Southern Baptists would pray for Clinton.

During the campaign, Clinton expressed support for The Freedom of Choice Act. Congressional supporters of the bill contend it would do nothing more than codify the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Other observers, including Attorney General William Barr and the American Civil Liberties Union, say the FOCA would prohibit state restrictions such as parental consent and notification, informed consent and 24-hour waiting periods. Such restrictions have been allowed under Roe.

"The vast majority of Southern Baptists believe that a pre-born baby is a distinct human life, according to both science and the Bible ...," Land wrote. "Southern Baptists, by national resolutions, have opposed abortion on demand" and supported policies restricting abortion and promoting alternatives.

Clinton also has said he will sign a homosexual civil rights bill which meets his requirements.

Most Southern Baptists "believe that the Bible teaches clearly that homosexuality is sexual immorality," Land wrote. "We oppose public policies which use the moral influence of law to establish homosexuality as the moral equivalent of heterosexuality."

While they deplore violence against homosexuals, Land said, Southern Baptists "oppose as unwise public policy which would add 'sexual orientation' as a special, protected status under civil rights laws similar to the status currently afforded race and gender. We fear the wrath of God on our nation if our government pursues this path."

Southern Baptists also have taken a stand against public funding of art, such as that through the National Endowment for the Arts, which "offends large segments of the population as blasphemous or obscene," Land said. "Pitting government policy against religious-based conscience violates the church-state principles which our Baptist forebears cherished."

Fellow Southern Baptists will pray for Clinton, his family and his administration, Land told the president-elect. On ethical issues, Southern Baptists will "both pray for you and exhort you to apply biblical principles and values as you make policy decisions which will impact the families of America and the world," Land said.

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The Religious Freedom Restoration Act would restore the standard of protection afforded religious exercise before the Supreme Court's 1990 Employment Division v. Smith opinion. The CLC has supported both the RFRA and the alcohol advertising bill in Congress.

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EDITORS' NOTE: Full text of Land's letter will be posted in SBCNet Newsroom.

Missionary abducted,
then freed in Colombia

By Robert O'Brien

Baptist Press
11/13/92

CALI, Colombia (BP)--An unidentified Colombian man briefly kidnapped and threatened a Southern Baptist missionary Oct. 28, according to reports from strife-torn Colombia.

The missionary, now on a regularly scheduled furlough with his family in the United States, was abducted by a man who forced his way into the missionary's vehicle at gunpoint at a traffic light in Cali.

The man ordered the missionary to drive and then issued general threats about "gringos" and said they should leave Colombia, according to an official of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

After about 30 minutes, the man ordered the missionary to stop the car and left without harming him.

Foreign Mission Board officials declined to release the missionary's name for security reasons but noted that missionaries in Cali in particular and throughout the country in general have been on an increased state of alert since the incident. The FMB has 55 missionary personnel assigned to Colombia.

They also said they have no idea how or if the incident relates to general strife in Colombia, a nation now operating under a national state of emergency declared by Colombian President Cesar Gaviria to combat a new wave of guerrilla and drug violence.

According to news reports, Gaviria's declaration came a day after 200 Marxist guerrillas attacked a jungle oil installation, about eight hours south of Cali, and killed 26 police. Rebels also had set off a series of bombs at locations across the country.

As missionaries increase security measures, they urge Southern Baptists to pray for the situation in Colombia and for them as they go about their normal duties, a Foreign Mission Board official said.

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Louisiana Baptists use constitution
to exclude pro-homosexual churches By C. Lacy Thompson

Baptist Press
11/13/92

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--In historic fashion, Louisiana Baptist Convention messengers voted to exclude churches sympathetic to homosexuality from participation in key areas of denominational life.

Messengers to the 145th session of the Louisiana Baptist Convention approved a change in the state constitution to set up homosexuality as a test for convention participation.

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The approved constitutional amendment states: "Any church which has taken action affirming, approving, or endorsing the practice of homosexuality shall not be considered as cooperating with the Convention. Such actions include but are not limited to the licensure or ordination of homosexuals, marriage or blessing of homosexual relationships and endorsing homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle."

Messengers also approved a record state convention budget goal, re-elected the convention president and approved several resolutions of concern.

The homosexual action represents a historic move, apparently the first time in history Louisiana Baptists have set up a particular issue as a test of fellowship. Traditionally, Baptists have based denominational participation on whether a church is in "cooperation" with the state convention and its purposes, determined by whether the church contributes financially to the convention.

With their constitutional vote, however, Louisiana Baptists became the only Baptist state convention to address the homosexual issue in such a permanent way. The Southern Baptist Convention also is in the midst of a two-year process making a similar change in its constitution.

North Carolina Baptists also have taken action to exclude pro-homosexual churches. However, they did so by amending their business and financial plan to disallow contributions from such churches. Without being able to contribute to convention causes, a church fails to be cooperating.

The homosexual issue came to the forefront in North Carolina earlier this year when two Baptist churches voted to license a homosexual divinity student to the gospel ministry and to sanction a marriage-type ceremony for two homosexual men.

Louisiana Baptists addressed the issue of homosexuality in several other actions during their annual meeting, Nov. 9-10 on the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary campus:

- approving a change in their business and financial plan that stipulates "any gift received by any Louisiana Baptist Convention entity from a church that affirms, approves, or endorses homosexual behavior shall be returned to the donor."
- approving a resolution expressing dismay and concern at an executive order issued by Gov. Edwin Edwards that prohibits state entities from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. The resolution notes the order could result in homosexuals being hired as "coaches, counselors, teachers and other positions of leadership with children who are at an impressionable age." It calls on churches "to pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will admonish and enlighten our churches and government in their deliberations, actions and provide sufficient grace and wisdom to know and do that which is right in the eyes of the Almighty God and in accord with his inerrant Word."
- declined to authorize a committee to study the causes of homosexuality and recommend ways the issue can be addressed by Louisiana Baptists.

Proponents of the moves argued the denomination had to take a strong stand on the issue. LBC executive board president John Traylor noted that some people say the actions are not needed because no Louisiana Baptist church has endorsed homosexuality and because the moves single out one sin against others.

However, Traylor noted: "There are no other churches that we know about who say such sins as adultery are acceptable. But there are churches that say homosexual practices are all right and should be affirmed."

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In limited debate, Michael Claunch of Slidell said, "We need to set the record straight for those who are watching our witness. God said (homosexuality) is an abomination. We must accept his evaluation. We must not accommodate what God will not tolerate."

However, John Goodwin of Baton Rouge argued that the action is not good Baptist polity and does not represent adequately the loving spirit of Jesus Christ.

Bill Robertson of Jena noted that homosexuality is the only sin for which God destroyed two cities in the Bible. "I want you to know that the Boy Scouts have more conviction than some churches because you can't be a homosexual and join the Boy Scouts," Robertson said.

Roy Pitchford of Spearsville argued the action establishes a creed for the convention and violates the autonomy of the local church.

The constitutional amendment and business and financial plan change was approved by a vote of 581-199. The resolution on the issue was approved on a voice vote with little opposition. The study committee proposal was defeated on a vote of 144-352.

In other matters, convention messengers also approved a 1993 state budget goal of \$17.25 million, an increase of 4.15 percent over the current year.

As during the current year, it maintains a practice of taking \$300,000 "off the top" for ministers' retirement program. It also maintains a commitment to send 35.25 percent of the remaining receipts through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for national and international missions and ministry.

On another front, messengers continued the practice of granting presidents a second, one-year term without opposition, re-electing Roger Freeman by acclamation. Freeman is pastor of First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

Overall, messengers approved eight resolutions, including one expressing distress about the American Christian Television System's shared channel agreement with the VISN network. The resolution notes the agreement involves ACTS with various faiths, including religious groups "who openly embrace the principles of secular humanism and other differing ideologies." It urges the SBC Radio and Television Commission to "explore every possibility" to dissolve the agreement.

Another resolution calls on the state Moral and Social Concerns Committee to draft a letter on Louisiana Baptist views on sanctity of human life and family issues and seek to deliver it personally to President-elect Bill Clinton. The resolution urges Clinton to "prayerfully reconsider" his views on these issues. It also voices a prayer that Washington leaders will be guided by wisdom and "will not violate God's Word by enacting legislation that is detrimental to the values we hold as Louisiana Baptists."

Another resolution encourages churches to respond "with Christ-like love to the needs of persons who are HIV positive."

Next year's annual meeting is set for Nov. 15-16 at Louisiana College in Pineville.

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Mississippi Baptists hedge
on Clinton-Gore affirmation

By Tim Nicholas

Baptist Press
11/13/92

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention promised to pray for "the wisdom, the courage, and the strength" President-elect Bill Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore need "to lead our nation in the directions that will be pleasing to our Lord."

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The resolution, however, was amended from the convention floor to delete a phrase noting they are "fellow Southern Baptists." Bobby Hood, pastor of Myrick Baptist Church in Laurel, proposed the amendment. Hood said Mississippi Baptists do not agree with, and should not identify politically with, stands by Clinton and Gore, both of whom are Southern Baptists, on abortion and homosexual rights.

Dick Allison, pastor of Hattiesburg's University Baptist Church, said if Baptists required agreement on everything there "wouldn't any of us be fellow Southern Baptists."

However, the amendment passed easily on a hand vote.

A total of 1,804 messengers attended the convention's annual meeting at Jackson's First Baptist Church.

The 1993 Cooperative Program budget of \$22,452,000, a 4 percent increase over 1992, passed after an attempt to amend it failed. The budget sends 37 percent to SBC causes outside the state, the same percentage as the past two years.

The proposed amendment would have denied a half-million-dollar Cooperative Program subsidy to The Baptist Record, the state Baptist newspaper. The amendment, made by John Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church in Richton, would have added 1 percent to the SBC portion of the budget, raising it to 38 percent, and \$315,800 for the Baptist Children's Village, the convention's child-care agency.

Allen said the budget change would boost missions. Agreeing, Jimmy Walker, pastor of Pheba Baptist Church in Pheba, said, "We're not talking about freedom of the press, we're talking about priorities."

Baptist Record editor Guy Henderson defended the Baptist Record subsidy. Henderson noted a Foreign Mission Board survey found 75 percent of older people and 56 percent of baby boomers get their missions news from their state papers.

Henderson said he had attended and was reporting on meetings of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and an organizational meeting of a new group of conservatives. He said the conservative group had divided the state into zones to help elect people of influence such as on the convention board and its committees. The Baptist Record is committed to its "obligation to print the truth," he said -- both about missions and about local events that shape Baptist work.

Citing his years as a foreign missionary in Korea and the Philippines and that he currently has grandchildren on the mission field, Henderson said, "... unless we maintain a strong home base over here, we're not going to have anything over there."

Budget chairman Larry Otis, layman from Tupelo's Calvary Baptist Church, cited the budget amendment attempt as one to stifle The Baptist Record. "I love my wife," Otis said, but "I don't cut her money off just because I don't agree with her." He added, "There are some that would like to see our state papers put out of business." One messenger added "the best thing for our convention is information. I don't want someone telling me what to believe. Ignorance does not help us."

The amendment failed by a 342-449 vote and the budget passed on a hand vote by a wide margin.

Property and buildings of Clarke College in Newton were returned to the convention from trustees of Mississippi College who closed the troubled junior college in May citing declining enrollment, declining finances and loss of accreditation. An attempt to require reopening the school failed 447-852.

The document, which returns Clarke's assets to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, includes an agreement to split a deficit of \$484,000 between Mississippi College and the convention board, with MC's loss to be taken out of endowment proceeds over the next six years. MC retains ownership of the name Clarke College and pledged to keep alumni records intact.

A committee to be named by the MBCB's executive committee will determine future use of the property. Any proceeds will be divided equally among the state's three surviving Baptist colleges: MC, William Carey College and Blue Mountain College.

Messengers also passed resolutions that expressed opposition to gambling and the proposed Freedom of Choice Act which convention messengers said would expand the availability of abortion.

Waynesboro physician W.W. Walley of First Baptist Church there was re-elected to a second one year term as president. Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church in McComb, was elected first vice president and Ed Holmes, member of First Baptist Church in Gulfport and chief of chaplains at the VA Medical Center in Biloxi, was elected second vice president. None of the nominees faced opposition.

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 16-17 at First Baptist, Jackson.

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Economic hard times cited
as Oklahomans adopt budget

By Dave Parker

Baptist Press
11/13/92

MOORE, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptists elected apparently the first Native American to a statewide office during the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's annual meeting Nov. 9-11.

While approving a resolution endorsing the Cooperative Program, messengers reduced the percentage of their \$17.6 million 1993 budget for CP-funded Southern Baptist home and foreign missions and ministries from 44.25 percent to 42 percent. The 1992 budget totaled \$17 million.

In introducing the recommendation to reduce the CP division, Bill Merrell, member of a committee to study the matter, noted the decision was "not political. It was purely an economic decision" based on a decade of recession in Oklahoma.

Messengers also approved rescinding a 1987 action requiring the BGCO to adjust its division gradually until it returned to a 50-50 split. Messengers also assigned responsibility for determining future divisions to the budget subcommittee of the board of directors' administrative committee.

Other resolutions adopted by messengers took stands against homosexuality, abortion and gambling.

In the election for BGCO president, messengers picked Keith Russell, pastor of First Baptist Church in Elk City, by a 314-245 vote over Merrell, director of missions for the Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association.

Native American Bill Barnett, pastor of Indian Nations Church near Seminole, in the South Canadian Baptist Association, was elected first vice president by a 303-274 margin over Bobby Boyles, pastor of the host church, First Baptist of Moore.

In the race for second vice president, Wendell Lang, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pryor won convincingly over Michael Block, pastor of Oklahoma City's Crestwood Baptist Church.

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After the elections, BGC0 executive director-treasurer William G. Tanner said he saw the election of Barnett as a positive step for Native Americans in Oklahoma.

"I think Bill Barnett's election indicates a strong blending of our Native American Baptist leadership and our Anglo-American Baptist leadership in Oklahoma," Tanner said, adding, "Bill Barnett is not just a good representative of our Native American population in Oklahoma, he is just a fine Christian gentleman. Period. And a fine leader." While Tanner was president of Oklahoma Baptist University, he said he worked closely with Barnett, and developed a "fine working relationship."

"We're getting some good leadership in our Indian associations," Tanner said. "That's encouraging. Our leaders and pastors in our churches are making positive progress in reaching the Native American population."

In other action, messengers approved 10 resolutions, ranging from homosexuality to abortion to President-elect Bill Clinton.

The resolution on Clinton, while noting Southern Baptists' traditional stands against abortion and "abuse of sexuality," resolved that messengers would pray for Clinton to "seek divine wisdom in leading this nation according to biblical principles." It also said Baptists would seek to support Clinton "in every way possible in accordance with the principles of God's Word." It passed unanimously.

On the Cooperative Program, messengers unanimously pledged support for the missions giving program, and urged churches to not abandon it.

Another unanimous resolution declared homosexuality a "perversion of the biblical view of human sexuality" and declared out of fellowship any churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

On abortion, messengers unanimously resolved to continue seeking restrictions on abortion and to observe "Sanctity of Life Sunday" Jan. 17, 1993.

Oklahoma messengers also urged churches to pray for school boards, administrators and faculties to keep them from restricting students' right to prayer. The resolution passed with only one vote in opposition.

Resolutions of appreciation were passed in honor of four people retiring from the BGC0: J. Lyle Garlow, associate executive director and director of planning and promotion; Margaret Brower, secretary to the executive director; Paul McCullough, associate director of the Brotherhood department; and Harry K. Dodd, director of Falls Creek Conference Center.

The convention's 1993 meeting will be Nov. 15-17 at First Baptist Church in Edmond.

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New president, exec. director
highlight GBC annual meeting

Baptist Press
11/13/92

By James Dotson & R. Albert Mohler Jr.

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Change was a prominent theme as Georgia Baptists elected both a new president and a new executive director-treasurer during their annual meeting at the Macon Coliseum Nov. 9-11.

Larry Wynn, 39, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, was elected president of the convention with 3,305 votes (54.4 percent). O. Eugene Tyre, 52, pastor of Newnan's First Baptist Church, received 2,772 votes (45.6 percent).

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The day before, the GBC executive committee had unanimously elected J. Robert White, pastor of First Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., as GBC executive director-treasurer -- a show of unity few had predicted.

The unanimous vote for White apparently set the tone for the convention that followed, with sessions marked by inspirational messages and relative harmony rather than extensive floor battles and debate.

Attendance was the second-highest in GBC history, with 6,447 registered messengers -- just 615 short of the record 7,062 registered when the convention last met in Macon in 1988.

In nominating Wynn, former GBC president Dwight "Ike" Reighard pointed to the growth of Wynn's congregation from 65 in Sunday school to more than 2,000 in weekly attendance during Wynn's 15-year tenure. "Larry Wynn is one of the most crucial young men God is using today," Reighard said, adding that people leave Hebron "born again and not bored again."

Tyre was nominated by Paul Baxter, pastor of LaGrange's First Baptist Church, who said that Georgia Baptists "can depend upon (Tyre) to be a dependable statesman."

Wynn's nomination was supported by GBC conservatives while Tyre had the backing of moderates.

In the end, conservatives won three of the four convention vice presidential slots as well, electing Roger Byrd, a Georgia state representative and member of Hazelhurst First Baptist Church; Steve Johnson, pastor of Macon's Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church; and Kie Bowman, pastor of Canton First Baptist Church. Another vice presidential slot went to Dorothy Pryor, retired executive director of Georgia Woman's Missionary Union.

Organizations of both moderates and conservatives had been active in the state in the weeks leading up to the convention. Just prior to the session, the Georgia Cooperative Baptist Fellowship had issued a list of "suggested" candidates including Tyre, Pryor and three other vice presidential nominees.

Both candidates for the GBC presidency downplayed any division in the convention.

"In this convention I see a lot of harmony, I see a lot of unity," Wynn said in a news conference, noting that he and Tyre had met several times over the past several months and were friends. "I think as we continue to move forward in evangelism and missions that we'll see even more harmony and more unity."

Tyre also pledged to pray for and support Wynn in his role. "I would encourage Georgia Baptists to work with our new executive director/treasurer, Dr. Bob White, and our new president, Dr. Larry Wynn, as they lead us to be God's people on mission to this state and to this world," Tyre said after the vote was announced.

All resolutions adopted by the convention were adopted without debate as recommended by the resolutions committee. In those resolutions, the convention:

-- expressed appreciation to retiring executive director James N. Griffith and his wife, Mimi, for their 12 years of service, "along with our prayers for continued blessings in the years of retirement."

-- urged prayer for government leaders in the wake of recent elections. The resolution urges the president and president-elect to "be true to their biblical heritage" and "to consider carefully the commitment to moral and family values" as affirmed in past GBC and SBC resolutions.

-- stood against condoning of homosexual behavior, "safe sex" and denigration of "traditional family values and morals" while reaffirming the right of parents to educate children according to religious principles and the home as the best place for sex education. The resolution was sparked by a recent report on sex education being considered by the Georgia Board of Education.

In other business, messengers approved a 1993 Cooperative Program budget of \$33.7 million, an increase of 1.98 percent over the 1992 budget. The convention maintained its 50-50 division of CP funds between state ministries and those of the Southern Baptist Convention nationally and internationally.

The next GBC annual meeting will be Nov. 15-17 at the Savannah Civic Center.

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CORRECTION: In (BP) story titled "Florida Baptists elect layman, urge Clinton to rethink stances," please correct the spelling in 12th paragraph of Richard Lowry, not Lowery.

Thanks,
Baptist Press
