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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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June 8, 1992

92-93

900,000th messenger
makes SBC history

By Art Toalston

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--The 900,000th messenger in the Southern Baptist Convention's 147-year history registered Sunday night, June 7, at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

"This is absolutely amazing," said Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, as Robert Wilson, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, walked into the registration area. "It is totally amazing," Porter repeated of the coincidence of a Southern Baptist denominational worker being the convention's 900,000th messenger.

Wilson and his wife, Reatha, were registered by Willie Feats, a member of Sunnyside Road Baptist Church in Indianapolis and an Army sergeant at nearby Fort Harrison. Feats, a native of Lanett, Ala., is one of 200 local Baptist volunteers working the convention's registration booths.

Moments earlier, Porter had flagged down another couple but, it turned out, the husband had registered earlier and was accompanying his wife to the registration area. Thus she was the 899,999th local church representative to the convention.

Wilson has been executive director of the Michigan convention since 1970 and a convention staff member 35 years. The state convention encompasses 48,000 Baptists in 247 churches and 55 missions.

Wilson said he has attended the SBC every year since the 1957 meeting in Chicago except the 1988 session in San Antonio when, just days earlier, the roof of the Michigan convention's headquarters in Southfield collapsed. In placing a new roof on the building, workers unknowingly had piled materials atop the facility to the point of collapse.

Porter, SBC registration secretary since 1977, reviewed the growth of messenger numbers since 293 messengers were registered at the first meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 in Augusta, Ga.

Cumulative messenger totals reached 100,000 at the 1929 SBC meeting in Memphis, Tenn.; 200,000 in 1950 in Chicago; 300,000 in 1960 in Miami Beach; 400,000 in 1967 again in Miami Beach; 500,000 in 1975 a third time in Miami Beach; 600,000 in 1980 in St. Louis; 700,000 in 1985 in Dallas; and 800,000 in 1988 in San Antonio.

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(BP) photo available upon request from (BP) central office.

WMU executive board approves
program statement, record budget

By Susan Todd Doyle

Baptist Press
6/8/92

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--The executive board of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union June 6 approved revisions to its program statement and set a record budget for the coming year.

The board, meeting in Indianapolis, also heard a brief report from an ad hoc committee appointed in January to study WMU's future role in missions and missions education.

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The board approved two requests to revise the program statement which is expected to come before the Southern Baptist Convention during its annual meeting June 9-11 in the Hoosier Dome.

Last January the board approved an updated WMU program statement to make it consistent with program statements outlining the work of other SBC entities. WMU, as an auxiliary organization to the SBC, is not obligated to provide a program statement but historically has done so voluntarily.

After the board updated the program statement in January, the SBC Executive Committee and Brotherhood Commission requested slight revisions before its presentation to the convention in Indianapolis. The changes add the words "Southern Baptist" in two places in the document and, in another section of the document, WMU's relationship to Brotherhood is spelled out.

The board adopted a record budget of \$13,781,400 for WMU's 1992-93 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. The new budget reflects a 2.74 percent increase over the current budget of \$13.4 million.

Martha Wennerberg, WMU national corresponding secretary and a member of the committee studying WMU's future, gave a brief report on the committee's work. The report is "simply, that we have been meeting," she said. "We solicit your prayers as we continue to meet. We have sensed your prayers as we have met."

Since the committee was appointed by WMU national President Carolyn Miller, it has gathered data, conducted interviews and polled various audiences using questionnaires.

"We have continued to receive affirmation for providing missions education and missions opportunities for all Southern Baptist churches," said Dellanna O'Brien, national WMU executive director, in an interview following the meeting.

The board also set the national goal for the 1993 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions at \$85 million and the goal for the 1994 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions at \$40 million.

They also voted to reduce the 1992 Lottie Moon goal from \$88 million to \$84 million. The reduction came because of a concern the goal hasn't been met since 1981. They also voted to reduce the 1993 Annie Armstrong goal from \$41 million to \$38 million.

The board saw the first copy of Express Missions, a quarterly missions resource kit for youth leaders published jointly by WMU and the Brotherhood Commission. The kit will be available to churches in October.

The WMU executive board also heard an update on the media awareness campaign which was launched in April and May with a four-page, four-color insert in regional editions of five women's magazines.

The insert describes mission action projects WMU members are doing across the country to improve the quality of life for others. Readers are then invited to call a toll-free number to request a free videotape giving more information about WMU.

The next meeting of the WMU executive board will be Jan. 8-14, 1993, at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala.

Southern Baptists saturate
Indianapolis with gospel By Sarah Zimmerman & Davud Winfrey

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Downtown sidewalks, neighborhood streets, church parking lots and even a suburban Wal-Mart were saturated with the gospel as Southern Baptists converged on Indianapolis for their annual meeting.

Soul-winning efforts have been held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting since 1989. This year's "Crossover Indianapolis" included street evangelism, door-to-door surveys, block parties and a rally where J. Harold Smith preached his "God's Three Deadlines" sermon.

Southern Baptists from other states were impressed with the openness they found in Indiana.

"This is absolutely fertile territory," said John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention. Sullivan, who has participated in each of the pre-convention witnessing efforts, said, "This is the warmest experience I've had."

"People here are very religious, but they're lost. They have a hunger for genuine spirituality," said Alvin Reid, director of evangelism for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Volunteers doing street witnessing were the first to share their message with Hoosiers. They worked Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 3-5, in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne and recorded 192 professions of faith. "We've got divine appointments going on all over the place," said Thad Hamilton, director of mass evangelism for the Home Mission Board.

In Indianapolis, efforts centered downtown where businessmen carrying briefcases paused to watch puppet shows, magic acts, skits, clowns and singers during the lunch hour, as other Baptists others approached audience members to witness.

One team from Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Ky., set up their puppet show at a Wal-Mart in Plainfield, Ind., and worked with Plainfield Baptist Church in street witnessing and door-to-door surveys.

Volunteers used nine-question surveys for the door-to-door approach. The surveys began with questions about the person's religious beliefs and led to an opportunity for volunteers to share their faith.

Two additions to this year's convention-related evangelism blitz were a publication called "Heartland" and three block parties.

The 12-page newspaper featured people like baseball star Dave Dravecky, whose faith helped him deal with cancer. The paper also featured the plan of salvation and a list of Southern Baptist churches in Indianapolis.

The paper was mailed to 150,000 homes and, to date, eight people have made professions of faith as a result of the publication.

Three predominantly black churches in Indianapolis hosted the block parties for neighborhood residents, with help from Southern Baptist volunteers. Disaster relief units from Ohio, Illinois and Indiana served free food amid music, clowns and a chance to hear the gospel.

"We bless the community" with the block party, said Gerald Trotter, pastor of New Birth Baptist Church. "It lets them know we're sincere and that the church is not just about taking money."

The three block parties reported 93 professions of faith.

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Just as important for J.T. Calhoun III, pastor of The Open Door Baptist Mission Church which hosted a block party, was the sense of support he felt from fellow Southern Baptists. "This means more to me than \$50,000," he said. "I don't feel all alone no more. ... Somebody cares."

"The spirit in Indiana is different, our spirit is lifted because the Southern Baptist Convention is coming here," said Bobby Slagle, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in New Castle, Ind.

Saturday evening, 400 people gathered at the Murat Temple to hear J. Harold Smith preach his "God's Three Deadlines" sermon.

God's three deadlines, Smith said, are blasphemy which is the unpardonable sin, sinning away the day of grace and the sin unto death that only a believer can commit.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is accrediting the work of God to the work of the devil, Smith said. He said the sin can never be forgiven and the 21 people he knows who have committed this sin have died within 24 hours of their blasphemy.

Sinning away the day of grace is committed by people who are active church members although they have never made a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ, Smith said. He urged people to be sure they had a spiritual birthday, a time they know when God made them a new creature.

The third deadline can only be crossed by Christians who do not keep God as their first love. In those case, Smith said God "signs your death warrant. He tells the devil he can have everything but your soul.

"That doesn't have to happen, if you will just confess that before God."

Forty-four people made professions of faith at the rally.

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Draper announces next phase
of SSB restructuring process

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
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NASHVILLE (BP)--In the continuing process of restructuring the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, President James T. Draper Jr. has announced names of 18 components to report directly to vice presidents of the board's four operational areas.

He told employees during a June 5 assembly he expects to announce personnel for the 18 components by the end of June. Both the restructured organization and personnel will be recommended to trustees who meet Aug. 17-19 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

On May 22, Draper announced the formation of four operational areas and persons to head each -- corporate services to be led by Michael Arrington; church growth and programs, Gene Mims; trade and retail markets, Charles Wilson; and finance and administration, E.V. King.

"I know this information is not all you want to know," Draper told employees. "We are doing our best to let you know every step we take."

The restructuring process has been guided by employees through four task forces and numerous surveys and interviews, Draper said. The changes represent the greatest number of changes at one time in the board's history.

Draper said the restructured organization reduces the number of persons at the vice presidential level from seven when he became president in August 1991 to four, a 42 percent reduction.

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The new structure also creates three independent strategic operating units -- church growth and programs, Baptist Book Stores and trade publishing. To allow each to be "as independent as they can be with full resources for doing their work," Draper said a number of services will be decentralized to support the units, including marketing, sales, customer service, accounting and purchasing.

Church growth and services will include four divisions -- church growth and Sunday school, discipleship and family development, worship and church music and church programs services.

Trade and retail markets will include two divisions and one department reporting to Wilson -- book store and trade publishing divisions and the direct marketing department.

Corporate services will include five departments -- communications and denominational relations, marketing research, strategic planning and coordination, information systems and Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest conference centers.

Finance and administration also will have five departments -- business and finance, production services, property management, distribution and human resources.

"Keep in mind that there will be additional department positions at the next level of the organization," Draper said. "They will be finalized after the leaders of these 18 positions are in place and give input. No function has been eliminated."

In filling the 18 positions, Draper said: "We are looking first within the Sunday School Board. In situations where we do not find a good fit internally, we will go outside for candidates."

He urged employees to be flexible and cooperative amid the changes and to pray for one another.

"By working together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, I am convinced we will equip and enable individual Christians to reach people with the gospel of Christ," Draper said. "We will be a worldwide, Great Commission enterprise. Our products and services will be tops in quality and value. We will touch lives and grow churches. We will be the best."

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WMU now accepting
grant applications

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is now accepting applications for Second Century Fund grants, through Nov. 1.

The Second Century Fund is an endowment fund begun in 1988 as a gift to future generations of women in missions. All contributions are invested permanently with only the interest given annually as gifts.

Gifts are given in three categories: to develop missions organizations abroad; to enhance WMU leadership development in the United States; and to foster education about missions and WMU among Southern Baptist seminary students and faculty.

Grant recipients will be announced during the January 1993 WMU executive board meeting.

To date, more than \$219,000 has been awarded in grants to 73 individuals and organizations.

Grant applications are available from Second Century Fund, WMU, P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010. Applications also may be requested by calling (205) 991-4026.

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Baptist medical team evaluates
medical technology in Russia

By Trennis Henderson

KHABAROVSK, Russia (BP)--Following an uncomplicated delivery, a new mother routinely stays in a maternity hospital for seven days with little or no contact with family members.

Cancer patients who would be treated as outpatients in the United States stay in an oncology hospital for weeks at a time. Many make their way down two or three flights of stairs to go outside and smoke cigarettes.

Medical doctors regularly perform procedures that would be handled by nurses in America. The nurses, with little training or motivation, are relegated to menial tasks.

Drugs, equipment and facilities readily available in the United States often are scarce or nonexistent.

Those stark realities were among the findings of a recent Missouri Baptist medical team which spent a week in Khabarovsk, Russia. The physicians and nurses agreed much of the medical technology and practices they observed was 40 to 50 years behind common U.S. standards.

The team's task was to present lectures to Russian medical personnel about U.S. medical practices and to tour Russian medical facilities to assess needs and possible future responses.

The medical team was part of Project Brotherhood, a humanitarian aid venture to the Commonwealth of Independent States being coordinated by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in behalf of the Baptist World Alliance. The trip to Khabarovsk was planned in cooperation with the Khabarovsk Medical Institute and Khabarovsk Baptist Church.

The lectures presented by the Missouri volunteers addressed such topics as cardiovascular disease, skin cancer, depression, U.S. nursing education and labor and delivery. The medical personnel lectured each morning in medical facilities throughout the city, attracting capacity crowds to lecture halls which seated from 150 to 300 people each.

Scott Snyder, assistant professor of obstetrics/gynecology and anesthesia at the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia, was one of two physicians on the eight-member team, noted with the collapse of communism privatization of medical facilities is the greatest challenge facing Russian medical personnel.

Boris Kogut, deputy director of the Khabarovsk Medical Institute, agreed. "The main task of the institute is purchasing medical equipment for clinics and creating their own medical clinics," he explained.

Pointing out that Khabarovsk Medical Institute "is one of the biggest institutes in the Far East," Kogut added, "The changes in our country make it possible for competition in different spheres of life and education. We are looking to the future and know we must change a lot in competing for the training of medical specialists."

Comparing medical care in the two nations, Snyder said, "In America, we have state-of-the-art equipment and anything we want to work on our patients. It is most often the practitioners who are limited. In Russia, you have physicians who can tell you all about magnetic resonance imaging but have never seen equipment that can do that."

As team members toured area hospitals, Russian medical personnel responded with "a real element of pride and thinking they had a real handle on things," noted Carol Craighead, an RN at Callaway Community Hospital and a member of First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. "They really wanted to know what our impressions were, yet it was appalling at how archaic some of their methods were."

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In addition to the focus on medical technology, team members participated in worship services at Khabarovsk Baptist Church. Carroll Medford, a registered nurse at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center in Columbia and, with Snyder, a member of Calvary Baptist Church also led Sunday School teacher training for members of the congregation.

The church's modest, one-room log cabin at the end of a dirt road stands in stark contrast to the nation's opulent Russian Orthodox cathedrals. Yet more than 150 people crowded into the Baptist church for a two-hour Sunday evening worship service. They sang enthusiastically, prayed fervently and listened raptly to multiple sermons.

Gennady Abramov, 36-year-old chief pastor of the congregation, also is superintendent of Baptist work in Far East Russia, a region with 10 million people and fewer than 40 Baptist churches. Khabarovsk Baptist Church is the only Baptist congregation in a city of 600,000 people.

Abramov's dream is to build a Far East spiritual center in Khabarovsk with a 600-seat auditorium for the church and facilities to train pastors and Sunday school teachers from throughout the region.

"As a rule, our prayer houses are very shabby and need reconstruction," Abramov explained. "Before perestroika, it was forbidden to repair and build houses of prayer."

A major obstacle for the spiritual center, however, is lack of money. Abramov said the facility is expected to cost 20 million rubles (about \$200,000) but the church currently has only 100,000 rubles (\$1,000) in its bank account.

"We have not enough money but God will help us and has," the pastor affirmed. "Every morning, a group of sisters has prayer at the church, beginning with prayer for our future center."

That faith had carried over into other areas, Abramov said. "Recently 10 new churches were started in the region, even in small villages deep in the forest."

Abramov added that 450 people were baptized last summer in Baptist churches throughout the Far East, bringing the total number of baptized believers in the region to nearly 2,500.

"Our Russian people like very much to go to the church and pray," he pointed out. "Russians have a very difficult life but we have hope and faith."

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Royal Ambassadors race cars,
model growth at Indy racetrack

By Mike Day

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INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--It was "Indy in miniature" at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as about 250 youth and adults, rather than 250,000 racing fans, cheered 5-ounce wooden model cars streaking down a 30-foot track.

The event, dubbed "M&M Race Day," was an effort of the Brotherhood departments of Michigan and Missouri to demonstrate a way of promoting Royal Ambassador work across the Southern Baptist Convention. Royal Ambassadors (RAs) is the convention's program of missions education for boys in grades one through nine.

"Through RA racer events we try to capture a boy's interest in building and racing a model car, and then turn that interest toward missions," said Bill Schneider, Brotherhood director in St. Louis Metro Baptist Association and a primary organizer of the June 6 race prior to the June 9-11 meeting of the SBC in Indianapolis.

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According to Schneider, the RA Racer program has been a key element in the growth of RA units in the St. Louis area. There were about nine active units in 1987 when leaders began focusing on the racer program to generate interest. There are 62 RA units now; 13 were started in the past year.

"It has worked in St. Louis and we believe it will work in other places," Schneider said. "We must do whatever we can to get boys and girls interested in missions," he said.

The RA race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway was a result of Schneider sharing his conviction about RA growth and his expertise in RA racing with Wayne Vann, a Mission Service Corps volunteer serving as Brotherhood coordinator in Michigan.

"We have been looking for a way to strengthen RA work in Michigan," Vann said. "Bill and his crew of helpers have encouraged us to use the RA Racer approach. They have even come to Michigan to help us organize and run our first statewide race."

According to Vann, the effort has helped RA work grow in Michigan. "We know of six to eight RA units in our smaller churches that started as a direct result of the state RA Racer event," Vann said.

As Vann and Schneider reflected upon the success of their efforts, they decided to stage an event to model their approach for the SBC. Schneider said the Motor Speedway was the ideal place to focus on racing and missions opportunities.

"We put the race together, the boys and girls and parents built their cars and people came from seven different states to enjoy the event," Schneider said. "It was a great day."

"This event has given RA work in Michigan visibility on a much wider plain," said Jim Jones, director of evangelism and Brotherhood for the Michigan convention. "It has allowed our boys to see they are part of something big. It will generate a lot of enthusiasm for RAs throughout our state."

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Hispanics hear candidates' views,
are challenged to build churches

By David Winfrey

Baptist Press
6/8/92

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Two candidates for president of the Southern Baptist Convention discussed ethnic participation in SBC business and Hispanic megachurches during the Hispanic Southern Baptist Ministers Conference.

Nelson Price, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., said he will introduce a resolution during the June 9-11 annual meeting calling for greater denominational participation of Hispanic Southern Baptists, including appointments to the boards of SBC agencies and institutions, Price said.

Pastor Ed Young of Second Baptist Church in Houston said he wants to help Hispanic pastors build churches for 5,000 to 10,000 worshipers to draw more Hispanics to Southern Baptist congregations.

"They see their Catholic edifices and they said, 'Boy, God's doing big things here,'" Young said. "They see our little-bitty Hispanic 2-by-4 churches that we build and say, 'This is for the Hispanics?' That's not good."

Conference leader Bob Sena said he was pleased with both candidates' overtures to Hispanics at the June 7 meeting.

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"It's amazing that both men made a clear, specific declaration to our people that if elected -- either one of them -- they will do anything in their power to make sure Hispanics are given presence, position and participation in the Southern Baptist Convention," Sena said.

The group also was challenged to build Southern Baptist Hispanic church membership to 1 million by the year 2002.

Oscar Romo, Home Mission Board director of language church extension, said 2,800 areas in America have been identified as needing Hispanic Southern Baptist work.

The SBC currently has between 400,000 and 500,000 Hispanics, Romo said.

Hispanic Southern Baptists will meet again later this year to launch a decade-long Hispanic evangelism emphasis.

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Study finds marginal church members
to be fast-growing mission field

By Linda Lawson

Baptist Press
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INDIANAPOLIS (BP)--Marginal members of Protestant churches in the United States are both the fastest-growing category of church member and a true mission field, according to two researchers conducting a national study.

The researchers' preliminary findings were presented at the 15th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship June 6 in Indianapolis.

Kirk Hadaway of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Penny Marler, faculty associate at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Conn., are conducting the national study of marginal members. Both Hadaway and Marler are Southern Baptists.

Between 15 million and 20 million Americans are classified as marginal members of Protestant churches, meaning they consider themselves church members and attend church less than once a month.

The gap between the number of people who call themselves church members and the number of members reported by those same churches has increased by 15 million since 1965, Hadaway said. And the gap between people who claim a Protestant identity and actual church membership has grown by 25 million to 30 million in the last 27 years.

Despite their poor attendance and low involvement in programs and ministries of their churches, many marginal members feel a strong identification with their churches, according to the study.

"We found members who joined a church but haven't been in 20 years who would be upset if they found out they had been dropped" from the membership rolls, Marler said.

She said from the first phase of their research they have identified four distinct categories of marginal members -- traditionalists, liberals, critics and lifelong marginals.

Traditionalists -- the oldest and largest group of marginals -- are older, conservative, tend to be Southerners, grew up in the church, are very spiritual and are in poor health themselves or taking care of someone who is ill.

"Traditionalists seem to be separated from the church primarily by logistics. What it would take to reach traditionalists is more creative programming" by churches, Marler said.

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Liberal marginals, on the other hand, are middle-age, describe themselves as "very religious," are old-line Protestants and consider church involvement optional.

"Their children are going to church less than they went to church. Their children are going to end up being lifelong marginals," Marler predicted.

Critics are older baby boomers who grew up in a church, are liberal in their theology and have become critical of the institutional church for a variety of reasons.

"It will take loving attention and nurture to reach critics," Marler said.

Lifelong marginals are baby boomers and younger adults, Northerners, cultural liberals and have a vague sense that the church is a good thing.

"Lifelong marginals would probably have to have a conversion experience. They need discipleship and aggressive outreach," Marler said.

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Maryland/Delaware Baptists
address homosexuality

By Bob Allen

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COLUMBIA, Md. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware joined the chorus of critics of the apparent sanction of homosexual lifestyles by two Southern Baptist churches with a resolution opposing same-sex marriages and the ordination of homosexuals to the ministry adopted June 1 by the convention's general mission board.

The board, which operates on the two-state convention's behalf between annual sessions, also defeated an attempt to include a line item for the Washington, D.C.,-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in a 1993 budget to be recommended to messengers at the BCM/D annual meeting this fall.

The resolution on homosexuality was initiated by Robert Lilly, pastor of Catonsville Baptist Church, as a response to controversial stands on ministry to homosexual persons taken this spring by two Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina. A ceremony of blessing for a same-gender union was held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh while Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill licensed an admitted homosexual to the gospel ministry.

Those actions elicited sanctions from one of the churches' local association and the North Carolina Baptist state convention, both of which withdrew their fellowship, and the Southern Baptist Convention, which is expected to address the issue at its annual meeting in Indianapolis June 9-11.

Amendments to the BCM/D general mission board's resolution deleted specific references to the North Carolina congregations but admonished "all churches to do that which is right in the eyes of Almighty God and in accord with his inerrant word" with reference to the ordination of and marriage between homosexuals.

The amended resolution, however, also encourages churches to "proclaim God's redemptive grace to" and "extend Christian love to and affirm God's love for homosexual persons."

In other business, a proposal to send funds to the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious liberty concerns agency, surfaced in discussion of a BCM/D budget for the third consecutive year.

Board members rejected an amendment to the proposed 1993 budget adding a \$1,000 allocation for the BJC.

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In 1990, shortly after actions by the Southern Baptist Convention defunding the BJC and empowering its Christian Life Commission to represent the denomination in religious liberty concerns, BCM/D messengers voted to fund the BJC directly from surplus funds. Last year the convention turned field, amending the proposed 1992 budget by deleting a line item for the BJC on the convention floor.

Opponents cited last year's decision and said positioning the state convention on a national controversy would be unnecessarily divisive, pointing out that local churches supportive of the BJC have the option of providing funds through local budgets.

The \$4,535,997 budget proposal anticipates a deficit of \$108,491. Unless giving in 1993 exceeds projections, a shortfall would be covered by reserve funds.

A study group of the board's administrative committee presented options that might be necessary to achieve a balanced budget in 1994 and beyond. They include salary freezes, staff reductions, cutbacks in the percentage of missions dollars received through the Cooperative Program forwarded for home and foreign missions and to "do less ministry" in the two-state convention.

William Warren, pastor of Allen Memorial Baptist Church in Salisbury, Md., suggested convention leaders promote "a concerted prayer effort" for increased stewardship and "get the word out to our people we are looking at having to do some dire things if churches don't start giving."