

March 18, 1959

### Committee On Boards Nominates 200 Yearly

NASHVILLE--(BP)--It's not often realized that more than 200 positions on over 20 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention are filled by election each year.

Because the Convention's constitution sets a limit on the number of years a board member's term runs, and on the number of terms the member may serve before "rotating off," this 200-vacancy item of business is a vital year-after-year event.

The nominating committee to fill these important positions has a major role in Convention life. It's called the Committee on Boards. In addition to nominating agency board members, it nominates persons also to make up the Committee on Order of Business which drafts the program for the next year's Convention session.

Chairman of the Committee on Boards which will recommend persons to be elected by messengers at Louisville in May is W. M. Marshall, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, Rome, Ga.

Marshall gained experience in this type of committee work last year when he was chairman of the committee on nominations of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The committee on nominations recommended persons for election to Georgia Baptist agency governing boards.

The Baptist Press asked Marshall what procedure the Committee on Boards followed in nominating 200 persons to key places of leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention.

He first explained the way the Committee on Boards is composed in membership. It has one member from each state in the SBC qualified for representation. (A state must have at least 25,000 members of co-operating churches to qualify.)

After that he outlined some of the steps the 1958-59 committee has followed:

Step I --- The committee members each receive a worksheet for the Committee on Boards especially prepared by the office of the Executive Committee of the Convention. The worksheet lists, by agencies, each vacancy that must be voted on at the 1959 Convention.

Step Two --- The committee considers, on basis of information in the worksheet, whether the person is eligible for re-election. "A man is entitled to a second term by normal procedure the Convention has followed," Marshall explained. These eligible will most likely be renominated.

Step Three --- The committee considers vacancies which must be filled by the election of new persons. These vacancies occur in several ways. A board member may have served the limit of years imposed by the constitution; he may have moved into another state during the year and thus become ineligible; or members may have resigned or died.

Step Four --- The committee member from each state lists the vacancies requiring new persons who must come from his state. "The name suggested by the state representative on the committee for a vacancy from his state usually accepted. It is presumed that the state member is familiar with those in his state, and has selected the best qualified persons for nomination," Marshall continued.

Step Five --- The committee studies the balance of laymen and ordained members on the various agencies, working toward the two-thirds, one-third balance approved by the 1958 Convention. This requires that no more than two-thirds of the members of a board be laymen or ordained. Because there are hundreds of board members with several years of service left, this can not be achieved immediately but is being effected through filling of vacancies each year.

The Committee on Boards holds one meeting in Nashville each year. Members who can not be present send in their worksheets to the chairman by mail, recommending on it persons to fill vacancies from their states.

In addition, the committee will hold one or two meetings in Louisville immediately before submitting its nominations to the Convention. These last-minute meetings are necessary to make any readjustments in nominations. With almost any Baptist pastor or layman technically eligible for nomination, and with the factors entering into a person's eligibility for nomination, a few last-minute changes may be required.

Marshall said that the committee feels that nominations to serve on the Convention's Executive Committee, which functions for the Convention in many major business matters during the year, are the most important.

In considering nominations for vacancies occurring on boards of trustees for the seminaries, "the person considered will usually be a graduate of that seminary," Marshall said. "We feel that its own graduates know more about the seminary and have a particular interest in it because it's their alma mater."

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#### Extend Final Pay For Dismissed Profs

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary voted here to extend severance pay for 12 dismissed professors to one year from date of their termination. Previous action had limited pay to six months.

All dismissed professors whose salaries under present employment are less than they would have been at the seminary will be paid the difference. The professors were dismissed June 12, 1958.

The board also considered, but without final decision being made, a procedure to follow in future employment and release of seminary teachers. Members will study the plan with a view to future action. It is an adaptation of the plan advocated by the American Association of University Professors.

J. Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., said he "didn't know" if "enough had been done to save accreditation." But the new chairman of Southern's trustees reported that trustees "would make every effort" to retain accreditation by the American Association of Theological Schools.

A committee of the AATS visited Louisville late last year. Afterward, its report criticized the seminary for the way in which the professors were dismissed.

Trustees of the seminary, present faculty, dismissed professors, and a committee of Southern Baptist Convention presidents will meet here Mar. 30 to consider problems resulting from the dismissals.

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# BAPTIST FEATURES

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Ohio River Important  
To Louisville Growth

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Historic Louisville -- 181 years old in 1959 -- is located in Jefferson County, Ky., on the south bank of the Ohio River below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Gen. George Rogers Clark founded the first settlement in 1778 when he established an 18-cabin base at Corn Island. Louisville was named by Clark in honor of Louis XVI of France in tribute for French services during the Revolution.

In 1780 the Virginia Legislature passed an "Act for establishing the town of Louisville at the Falls of the Ohio" signed by then-Gov. Thomas Jefferson. In 1828 Louisville was incorporated as a city.

In the heyday of the keel-boaters, the first ocean-going sailship came down the Ohio from Elizabethtown, Pa., with a cargo of 720 barrels of flour and docked at the Louisville wharf June 16, 1800. Just a year before the War of 1812 the first steamboat, The Orleans, docked at the wharf.

Then, as now, the Ohio River was of prime importance in the city's development. The barrier presented by the falls of the Ohio was surmounted in 1831 with the opening of the Portland Canal.

Jefferson Seminary, forerunner of the University of Louisville, was founded in 1798, and today U. of L. is the oldest municipal university in the United States.

During the early 1800's, Louisville's first newspaper, church, and theater opened. John James Audubon came to Louisville in 1808 and produced some of his first famous bird pictures. About 1820 the Hope Distillery became the first plant to substitute machinery for hand implements.

The first Kentucky Derby, May 17, 1875, was won by Aristides, ridden by O. Lewis. Since then the best three-year-old thoroughbreds and the leading jockeys of the nation have competed here in the annual renewal of the "world's greatest horse race."

In 1840 Louisville became the first city in the American West to acquire gas lights. During that decade Louisville was the biggest tobacco and pork market in the world.

The auction method of selling tobacco by the hogshead originated in Louisville in 1843, and after the Civil War Louisville became the tobacco auction center of the world, maintaining that position until the time of World War I.

In 1842 an institution for the blind was established in Louisville. It gave rise to the present Kentucky School for the Blind and the American Printing House for the Blind, world center of Braille printing.

During the railroad era of the 50's came the completion of the Louisville, Frankfort & Lexington Railroad. The Louisville & Nashville, which has home offices in Louisville and is one of eight trunk lines now serving the city, was completed to Nashville in 1859.

The Civil War brought a bitter division of opinion in Louisville. The wartime "Gateway City" had a great influx of northerners whose Union sentiments conflicted with opinions of southerners in adjoining rural areas. Louisville was military headquarters and supply depot for the armies of the North during the war.

In 1883 Louisville business sponsored the Southern Exposition, a fabulous display of industrial progress during which President Chester A. Arthur threw the switch which lighted a public gathering by electricity for the first time.

Modern Louisville began to emerge as a major industrial city during World War II. "Rubbertown," a synthetic rubber center was established by the Federal

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Government. Today that group of industries produces 12 per cent of the world's synthetic supply.

Louisville's greatest growth has taken place during the current decade. Present industrial employment in the Louisville metropolitan area is about 100,000, with a total non-farm employment of about 250,000. Population of the city is well past the 400,000-mark, with the three-county metropolitan area pushing toward 700,000.

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