

March 8, 1958

Arizona Board Votes For Children's Home

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona has voted to establish a children's home and child placement service. Details will be worked out by a special committee of the board.

The executive board at its March meeting here also appointed a committee to re-study the method of issuing up to \$1 million in bonds authorized last year.

The bond issue would be used to pay indebtedness on property and to provide a fund for loans to churches. About \$650,000 is owed on Baptist buildings and property.

The board asked the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board to delay putting into effect a new associational missionary program. The associational missionary program has been scheduled to start next year. Delay was asked until 1960.

The board said it requested the one-year delay because of financial responsibilities the Arizona Convention would have toward Southern Baptist work in Utah, eastern Nevada, and southern Idaho.

Churches in those three states are planning to form an independent state convention that would come into being in 1960. The churches--about 17 in Utah, 10 in southern Idaho, and 12 in eastern Nevada--are affiliated presently with Arizona Convention.

Arizona Convention currently operates under the area missionary program of the Home Mission Board. The associational missionary program puts more financial burden on the Arizona Convention and its co-operating associations of churches, the board said.

A special meeting of the executive board is expected to be held in the near future to hear reports of the committees on the children's home and bond issue.

George Wilson, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Phoenix, is chairman of the children's home committee. It is charged with the duty of obtaining a license to operate a home, setting up proposed policies governing the home's operation, and suggesting a site for the home.

Executive Secretary Charles McKay reported that the convention has on hand about \$36,000 in gifts designated for children's home use. "We anticipate even further gifts," he said.

The board voted to name the new children's home for anyone giving "a sizeable amount" to its establishment.

C. Vaughan Rock, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, is chairman of the committee re-studying the bond issue.

-30-

Maryland Baptist Goes
Semi-Monthly Apr. 15

BALTIMORE--(BP)--The Maryland Baptist, publication of Maryland Baptist Union Association here, plans to increase publication from monthly to twice a month effective Apr. 15.

The paper also will adopt a revised, 8-page format except for two issues a year which will be 16 pages. It will publish 22 times a year, omitting an issue each in January and August.

Action affecting the Maryland Baptist was taken at the quarterly meeting of the state mission board of the association.

The board appointed a seven-member state music committee to plan promotional activities and to help churches develop programs in music education.

Before the board's action, Maryland Association had no music committee. Chairman of the new committee is Carlton L. Myers, pastor, Riverside Baptist Church here.

The board also appointed a committee to draft constitution and by-laws for a proposed Maryland Baptist Foundation. Chairman of the committee is the association's attorney, C. Keating Bowie of Baltimore.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two previous stories have been issued on the report of the Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program. They reported the overall committee recommendations, and the specific recommendations pertaining to the Southern Baptist Convention at large, its committees, the Inter-Agency Council and the Executive Committee. This article deals with the portion of report affecting Convention boards.

Committee Recommends
Fifth Baptist Board

By the Baptist Press

The Southern Baptist Convention presently has four agencies classified as boards--the Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Relief and Annuity Board.

A fifth board would join the family of agencies if the Southern Baptist Convention approves a recommendation of its Committee to Study Total SBC Program.

That board would be known as the Church Loan Board. Its duty, as outlined by the committee, would be to meet the "urgent need for more adequate provision for securing loans to build and enlarge church facilities."

This need, said the committee, has existed for many years and "is growing from year to year." The Church Loan Board would be empowered to make loans to churches through the Southern Baptist Convention territory which embraces about 42 states in the nation.

According to the Survey Committee (as it is commonly called), "The Church Loan Board should obtain capital funds from sources approved by the Southern Baptist Convention."

The Convention, it continues, "should allocate capital funds to the Church Loan Board from the capital needs program." The new board could also borrow funds "within limits to be established from time to time by the Southern Baptist Convention."

The board would be permitted, under certain circumstances, to accept capital funds offered by individuals and organizations. "The board should not, however, be authorized to solicit capital funds in any way which would be contrary to the best interests of the Cooperative Program," the Survey Committee declares.

For the first year--and as long thereafter as necessary to get the Church Loan Board "on a sound operating basis"--current operating costs would be appropriated directly by the Convention.

Thereafter, operating costs of the board would be met "from interest income."

The Survey Committee also recommends that the Home Mission Board retain "its present church loan function."

"The Home Mission Board should continue to administer the church building loan fund and the church extension loan fund since they are essential parts of the church extension effort for which the board is responsible," the Survey Committee report reads.

The Survey Committee recommends that "state conventions should be encouraged to assume administrative and financial responsibility for direct mission work now conducted by the Home Mission Board as rapidly as is feasible."

Direct missions programs include work with Spanish, French, and other language groups, Indian work, missions with the deaf, and good will centers. It also embraces international student work and operation of rescue missions.

"The Home Mission Board," according to the Survey Committee, "should make definite plans for gradual transfer of responsibility for its work in Cuba, Panama, and the Canal Zone to local conventions."

The committee recommends annual reports from the Home Mission Board to the Convention on transfer of its work to state conventions or to national Baptist conventions in the cases of work outside the United States proper.

Home Mission Board activities would be concentrated, the committee recommends, "in areas where there is no state convention or where the state convention is not well established."

The Foreign Mission Board, likewise, "should make definite plans for gradual transfer of responsibility for the work in Hawaii to the Hawaiian Convention," the committee says.

A new concept is suggested in the recommendation that the Foreign Mission Board "continue and expand its efforts to establish churches for English-speaking people in major cities in countries served by the Foreign Mission Board."

"These churches, once established, should, of course, be placed on a self-supporting basis as soon as possible," the report states.

The Survey Committee recommends the functions of the Sunday School Board "remain unchanged." It says that "The Sunday School Board is a major business enterprise subject to the same business problems and risks . . . common to any commercial publishing house."

While the Sunday School Board should continue to transfer funds to state conventions, it "should not be permitted or required to transfer funds to other Southern Baptist Convention agencies or committees," according to the report.

It should continue to contribute at least \$60,000 a year to the operating budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, and "additional funds . . . when its financial position will permit . . . without impairing its own program of work."

The Relief and Annuity Board, the committee says, "should be urged to continue to strengthen its organization and management as its work grows." No changes are recommended.