

Proceedings

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

June 15-17, 1976

Tuesday Morning, June 15

1. President Jaroy Weber (Tex.) called to order the one hundred and nineteenth session of the Southern Baptist Convention in the one hundred and thirty-first year of its history, at 9:30 A.M., June 15, 1976, in the Scope Convention Center, Norfolk, Virginia.

2. Pre-session music had been presented by the Virginia Baptist Male Chorale, directed by Allen R. Brown (Va.).

3. President Weber presented William J. Reynolds (Tenn.), music director for the Convention, who presented Allen R. Brown as assistant music director and William Partridge, Jerry Jones, Ray Herbek, Max Lyall, William Emerson, and Robert Simpson to serve as organists and pianists during the Convention. The Convention was led in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

4. W. Fred Kendall (Tenn.), registration secretary, reported a registration of 14,107 messengers and moved that these messengers constitute the Convention and that duly accredited messengers from churches in cooperation with the Convention who arrive later be recognized as messengers of the Convention when they have enrolled on the basis of membership set forth in Article III of the Constitution. The motion passed.

5. R. G. Puckett (Md.), chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, presented the report of the committee, explained necessary adjustments in view of the scheduled address by President Gerald Ford at 3:00 P.M., particularly the change of time for the election of officers, and moved adoption of the report. The motion passed. Chairman Puckett then made remarks relative to the historic setting of the Convention and the Bicentennial year of the nation.

Theme "Let the Church Stand Up"

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 15

- 8:45 Music for Inspiration—Virginia Baptist Male Chorale, Allen R. Brown, director, Richmond, Virginia
- 9:15 Call to Order
- 9:20 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, director, Nashville, Tennessee
- 9:25 Report of Registration and Constituting of Convention—W. Fred Kendall, Nashville, Tennessee
- 9:30 Report of Committee on Order of Business—R. G. Puckett, chairman, Baltimore, Maryland
- 9:40 Recognition of Fraternal Messengers
Recognition of Local Committees
- 9:50 Introduction of Virginia Governor—William J. Cumbie, Fairfax, Virginia, president, Baptist General Association of Virginia. Welcome Address—Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., Richmond, Virginia
- 10:10 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Committee on Tellers, Credentials Committee
- 10:15 Solo—Nettie Beth Weber, Flat Rock, North Carolina

- 10:20 President's Address—Jaroy Weber, Lubbock, Texas
 11:00 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds
 11:05 Executive Committee Report (First Section)—Porter Routh, Nashville, Tennessee
 11:45 Miscellaneous Business
 12:10 Introduction of Resolutions
 12:35 Benediction—Bruce M. Morgan, pastor, First Baptist Church, Griffin, Georgia

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration—"Freedom '76," First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, Ron Lowry, minister of music
 2:30 Congregational Singing—Allen R. Brown, Richmond, Virginia
 2:35 "The Church and Biblical Authority"—James L. Sullivan, Nashville, Tennessee
 3:00 Address—Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States
 3:30 Executive Committee Report (Final Section)—Porter Routh, Nashville, Tennessee
 4:00 "Looking to the Third Century with Confidence"—Ben C. Fisher, executive director, Education Commission, Nashville, Tennessee
 4:25 Miscellaneous Business
 Introduction of Resolutions
 4:45 Benediction—Joe Whitt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Aliceville, Alabama

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 15

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration—The Centurymen, Buryl Red, New York City, musical director
 7:00 Congregational Singing—Ron Lowry, Lubbock, Texas
 7:05 Prayer—Earl H. Wilson, pastor, City View Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee. "Let the Church Stand Up in Today's World"—Bailey Smith, pastor, First Baptist Church, Del City, Oklahoma
 7:25 "Christ's Freedom Rings: Past, Present, Future"—Lynn E. May, Jr., executive secretary, Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee
 7:45 Election of Officers
 8:10 Congregational Singing—Ron Lowry
 8:15 Southern Baptist Theological Seminaries
 8:45 "Born to Serve": The Cooperative Program Forum—Conrad Johnston, chairman, Salem, Virginia
 9:30 Adjourn

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 16

- 8:45 Music for Inspiration—"Cooperative Program" (Youth Choir), First Baptist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas, Mrs. Delbert Taylor, director
 9:15 Congregational Singing—Gary M. Horton, Alexandria, Virginia
 9:20 "The Church in the Redemption of the Family"—Alton McEachern, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina
 9:40 Election of Officers
 9:50 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
 10:20 Committee on Committees Report
 Committee on Boards Report
 10:30 Report of Committee to Study the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee—C. R. Daley, Middletown, Kentucky, chairman
 11:00 Congregational Singing—Gary M. Horton
 11:05 Special Music—James R. Davis, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 11:10 Convention Sermon—Warren Hultgren, pastor, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Alternate: Charles G. Fuller, pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia
 11:40 Miscellaneous Business (Consideration of Constitutional changes and other matters.)
 Election of Officers
 12:30 Benediction—Dan Rainbolt, pastor, Susquehanna Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri

(No Afternoon Session)

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 16

- 6:30 Music for Inspiration—Tidewater Area Baptist Choir, Jerry P. Huling, Norfolk, Virginia, director
- 7:00 Congregational Singing—Clinton Nichols, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 7:05 "The Church and Religious Liberty"—Charles G. Fuller, pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia
- 7:25 Recognition of Past Presidents
- 7:35 "Applying the Gospel"—Foy Valentine, executive secretary, Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tennessee
- 7:45 "Publish and Conceal Not"—Committee on Baptist State Papers, H. Franklin Paschall, Nashville, Tennessee, chairman
- 7:55 Missions Challenge Committee Report—Warren Hultgren, Tulsa, Oklahoma, chairman
- 8:40 Congregational Singing—Clinton Nichols
- 8:45 "Total Mission Thrust, Now!"—Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia
- 9:30 Benediction—Morris Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 17

- 8:45 Music for Inspiration—"Jubilate," University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, Carl Beard, minister of music
- 9:15 Congregational Singing—Paul Bobbitt, Jacksonville, Florida
- 9:20 "The Church and National Righteousness"—Foy Valentine, Nashville, Tennessee
- 9:40 Sunday School Board—Grady C. Cothen, president, Nashville, Tennessee
- 10:10 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 10:30 Baptist World Alliance—Robert S. Denny, general secretary, Washington, D. C.
- 10:40 "Baptists and the American Experience"—James E. Wood, Jr., executive director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.
- 10:50 Southern Baptist Foundation—Kendall Berry, executive secretary, Nashville, Tennessee
- 11:00 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:15 Congregational Singing—Paul Bobbitt
- 11:20 "Magnificent Obsession"—Harold A. Carter, pastor, New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland
- 12:00 Benediction—Charles Jolly, pastor, Madison Baptist Church, Madison, New Jersey

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 17

- 1:30 Music for Inspiration—Evangelistic Singers
- 2:30 Congregational Singing—Lowell Leistner, Orlando, Florida
- 2:35 "The Church and A Clean America"—H. Edwin Young, pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina
- 2:55 "Helping Retired Ministers Stand Firm"—Darold H. Morgan, president, Annuity Board, Dallas, Texas
- 3:15 American Bible Society
- 3:20 Radio and Television Commission—Paul M. Stevens, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 3:35 Stewardship Commission—A. R. Fagan, executive director, Nashville, Tennessee
- 3:45 Denominational Calendar
- 3:50 Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary
- 3:55 Congregational Singing—Lowell Leistner
- 4:00 Special Music—Debbie and Otis Stroup, Glen Burnie, Maryland
- 4:05 "Let the Church Stand Up with a Clear Voice to its Youth"—Chester E. Swor, Jackson, Mississippi
- 4:40 Benediction—Laverne Inzer, missionary, Carlin, Nevada

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 17

- 6:30 "Stearns & Co.," historical drama by Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, Joe Carrell, director
- 7:30 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds
- 7:35 "The Church and Personal Integrity"—Walter P. Shurden, professor of church history, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee
- 7:55 "Teach Missions: To Know, To Grow"—Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama
Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds
"Men and Boys in Missions"—Glendon McCullough, executive director, Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, Tennessee
- 8:30 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds. Presentation of Officers
- 8:40 Home Mission Board—Arthur Rutledge, executive director, Atlanta, Georgia
- 9:30 "And the March Goes On"—Carl E. Bates, pastor, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 10:00 Ringing of The Liberty Bell
Passing of the President's Gavel
- 10:15 Benediction—New President, Southern Baptist Convention

6. President Weber suggested helpful guidelines for the effective execution of business and the achievement of spiritual unity. He presented the other Convention officers to the body.

7. Fraternal messengers were recognized as follows: Andrew Lee Gunn (Americans United for the Separation of Church and State), Andrew R. Bird, Jr. (Lord's Day Alliance), Richard Gladden (American Baptist Churches), and Gordon Giller, Norman Thompson, and Ernest Grant from England.

8. The Chair called attention to the local arrangements committee and expressed appreciation for their service.

9. M. Hunter Riggins, Jr. (Va.), first vice-president, was asked to take the chair. He presented William J. Cumbie (Va.), who welcomed the messengers and read a telegram of greeting from the governor of Virginia, Mills E. Godwin, Jr.

10. The Chair announced the following committees: Committee on Resolutions, Committee on Committees, Tellers Committee, and Credentials Committee.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS: Andrew Tampling, *Chairman*, Alabama; Harold H. Coble, California; Nelson Duke, Missouri; Joseph B. Flowers, Virginia; Jack Harwell, Georgia; Jim Martin, Nebraska; Frank Minton, Ohio; Charles B. Nunn, Virginia; Ronald Prince, Louisiana; Quinn Pugh, Maryland; William Self, Georgia; Edwin Young, South Carolina; Paul Craven, South Carolina; James Wesley, Georgia.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES: Perry Sanders, *Chairman*, Louisiana; Harrell Cushing, *Luther Davis, Alabama; John McBain, *Bill Crofts, Arizona; James A. Walker, *Dale Ward, Arkansas; Bob Kleinschmidt, *Robert Hunt, California; Wayne Williams, *W. H. Landers, Colorado; Fuller B. Saunders, *Mrs. Louis S. Clapper, D. C.; Ben L. Peacock, *Joseph Napier, Florida; James Waters, *Albert L. Evans, Georgia; Kenneth Parks, *George Wheeler, Illinois; Robert Nall, *Mrs. James H. Currin, Indiana; Kenneth D. Emerson, *Mrs. Lynn P. Clayton, Kansas; John Huffman, *Mrs. T. L. McSwain, Kentucky; Malcolm Jones, *Lyell Garland, Maryland; Billy Whitt, *Mrs. Amy Wilkinson, Michigan; John Traylor, *Gene Triggs, Mississippi; Dewayne Lasseter, *Harold Coday, Missouri; Morris Chapman, *Mrs. O. D. Lambirth, New Mexico; James S. Potter, *Mrs. Jean Lewis, North Carolina; L. H. Moore, *Ed Van Dyke, Ohio; Jimmy Reese, *Mrs. Virgil Landers, Oklahoma; Daniel Greer, *Robert S. Davis, South Carolina; Carroll C. Owen, *Wendell Crews, Tennessee; Charles L. Cockrell, *Clifton Cummings, Texas; J. Roy Clifford, *Cecil Wollard, Virginia.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: William J. Cumbie, *Chairman*, Virginia; Joe Baker, Ohio; S. M. Batson, Louisiana; Mrs. Gene Bolin, Maryland; Robert Burris, In-

*Indicates non church-related vocation.

diana; Bryant Cummings, Mississippi; Russel K. Hunt, Kansas; Clark Hutchinson, Georgia; Verlin Kruschwitz, Kentucky; Vernon S. Lee, Pennsylvania; Richard Spangenberg, California; James A. Cates, Virginia; Roy Godwin, Maryland; James W. Lippincott, Virginia; Janis Sumerlin, Virginia; Charles A. Watkins, Virginia; Robert F. Woodward, Virginia.

TELLERS COMMITTEE: Sam P. Jones, *Chairman*, Virginia; Lawrence Bradley, Jr., Georgia; J. P. Brewer, Indiana; Badgett Dillard, Kentucky; Wade Freeman, Jr., Washington, D. C.; Norman P. Gillam, Virginia; Hollis B. Hendon, Virginia; A. O. Jenkins, Louisiana; I. D. Walker, Texas; Claude Kirkpatrick, Louisiana.

11. Vice-president Riggins presented the family of President Weber to the Convention: Mrs. Weber, Bill Weber and his wife, and Nettie Beth Weber, who sang "Grace So Amazing." President Weber then addressed the Convention on the subject, "Let the Church Stand Up."

12. Charles Harvey (La.) was recognized to present the report of the Executive Committee. He asked President Weber to present to Porter Routh (Tenn.) and Mrs. Routh a gift in behalf of the Convention and in recognition of twenty-five years of service to the Convention. Louis Armstrong (Ala.) presented to Secretary Routh and Mrs. Routh a gift in behalf of the Executive Committee. Routh then commented on highlights in the report of the Committee and on information in the *Bulletin*.

13. Rufus Spraberry (Tex.) presented Recommendation No. 1 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 1

We recommend:

A. That the total Cooperative Program allocation goal be approved as follows:

1975-76		1976-77	
Basic Operating Budget	\$41,000,000	Basic Operating Budget	\$49,000,000
Capital Needs Budget	1,080,000	*Capital Needs Budget	1,080,000
SUBTOTAL	\$42,080,000	SUBTOTAL	\$50,080,000
Challenge Operating Budget	8,920,000	Challenge Operating Budget (Phase I)	1,000,000
		Challenge Operating Budget (Phase II)	3,920,000
TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ALLOCATION BUDGET	\$51,000,000	TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ALLOCATION BUDGET	\$55,000,000

B. That the total Basic Operating Budget of \$49,000,000 be distributed as follows:

	1975-76 ¹	1976-77 ²
Foreign Mission Board	\$20,480,400	\$23,625,918
Home Mission Board	7,680,150	9,200,000
Annuity Board	250,000	250,000
Golden Gate Seminary	782,323	1,037,352
Midwestern Seminary	790,494	1,115,744
New Orleans Seminary	1,499,187	1,821,476
Southeastern Seminary	1,265,651	1,642,581
Southern Seminary	1,884,198	2,143,180
Southwestern Seminary	2,379,827	3,077,349
Southern Baptist Foundation	108,091	125,000
American Seminary	113,780	135,000
Brotherhood Commission	409,608	475,000
Christian Life Commission	278,761	323,000
Education Commission	187,737	240,000
Historical Commission	159,292	185,000
Radio-Television Commission	1,934,260	2,500,000
Stewardship Commission	201,000	225,000
Baptist Joint Committee	171,241	200,000
SBC (Operating Budget)	424,000	488,000
	\$41,000,000	\$49,000,000

¹See Item C.

²As voted by the Convention in 1975; not what is expected to be received.

³The agencies will plan their operating budgets on the basis of these allocations.

C. That the \$1,080,000 Capital Needs Budget as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 11, 1974 be distributed after distribution of the Basic Operating Budget as follows:

Golden Gate Seminary	\$ 131,200
Midwestern Seminary	237,000
Southeastern Seminary	68,000

Southwestern Seminary	225,500
Southern Seminary	400,000
Radio-Television Commission	18,300
	<u>\$1,080,000</u>

D. That the \$1,000,000 Challenge Operating Budget (Phase I) will be distributed, after the Basic Operating Budget and the Capital Needs Budget have been met, to the agencies proportionately as follows:

Foreign Mission Board	\$ 482,200
Home Mission Board	187,700
Annuity Board	5,100
Golden Gate Seminary	20,714
Midwestern Seminary	23,056
New Orleans Seminary	35,374
Southeastern Seminary	33,943
Southern Seminary	48,421
Southwestern Seminary	63,592
Southern Baptist Foundation	2,500
American Seminary	2,500
Brotherhood Commission	9,700
Christian Life Commission	6,600
Education Commission	4,900
Historical Commission	3,800
Radio-TV Commission	51,000
Stewardship Commission	4,600
Baptist Joint Committee	4,100
SBC (Operating Budget)	10,000
	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

E. That the \$3,920,000 Challenge Operating Budget (Phase II) be proportionately distributed: 50 percent to the Foreign Mission Board, 25 percent to the Home Mission Board, 15 percent to the Radio and Television Commission, and 10 percent to the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries. The 10 percent, or any part thereof going to the six seminaries, shall be distributed respectively to the seminaries in keeping with the proportions set forth for the seminaries in Phase I of the Challenge Operating Budget.

14. Louis Armstrong (Ala.) presented Recommendation No. 2 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 2

We recommend adoption of the Southern Baptist Convention Operating Budget for 1976-77 as follows:

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET

Income	1976-77	1975-76
Cooperative Program	\$488,000	\$424,000
Dividends and interest	36,000	36,000
Sunday School Board	385,000	357,000
	<u>\$909,000</u>	<u>\$817,000</u>
Expenditures		
Convention Expense	\$160,000	\$149,000
Special Committees	27,500	25,000
Executive Committee	507,000	472,000
*Baptist World Alliance	180,000	140,000
Legal and Auditing	2,000	2,000
Building Operations	19,700	17,500
RIAL	5,000	5,000
	<u>\$901,200</u>	<u>\$810,500</u>
Reserve	7,800	6,500
	<u>\$909,000</u>	<u>\$817,000</u>

*\$10,000 for Program of Evangelism and Education with understanding no approach will be made to other Southern Baptist Convention agencies. 20 percent of Challenge Funds received by Convention Operating Budget will go to the Baptist World Alliance.

15. Marion Hare (S.C.) presented Recommendation No. 3 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 3

We recommend that the Convention Procedure on the *Bulletin* be amended as follows (proposed changes are in boldface italics):

Bulletin: The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have printed each day a brief report, or bulletin, of the Journal of Proceedings, *reporting specifically matters of business proposed and acted upon*, including the names of the committees appointed, reports of the committees, and such business as may be transacted and carried over to the following day, *also including a list of the titles or subjects of the resolutions presented and the names of the persons presenting them.*

16. H. Franklin Paschall (Tenn.) presented Recommendation No. 4 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 4

We recommend that the section of Convention Procedure (see page 45, *Annual*, 1975) concerning Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee Representation be amended as follows (proposed changes are in boldface italics):

Baptist World Alliance General Council Representation: The representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention on the *General Council* of the Baptist World Alliance shall include the following: . . .

In the event the Southern Baptist Convention or the Executive Committee does not have the opportunity to approve proxies for those named by the Southern Baptist Convention as members of the *General Council* of the Baptist World Alliance, the members of the *General Council* of the Baptist World Alliance representing the Southern Baptist Convention, answering the roll call at the regular meeting of the *General Council* of the Alliance, . . .

17. Truet B. Thompson (Ariz.) presented Recommendation No. 5 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 5

We recommend that the Home Mission Board be authorized to amend its charter to add:

"The Corporation shall have the power to enter into any contract of guaranty, suretyship, or endorsement even though the Corporation has no direct interest in the subject matter of the contract guaranteed, and shall further have the power to make a purely accommodation guaranty, endorsement, or contract of suretyship."

18. Doyle E. Carlton, Jr. (Fla.) presented Recommendation No. 6 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 6

We recommend that the 1980 Southern Baptist Convention be held in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 10-12, 1980.

19. Carlton presented Recommendation No. 6B and moved its adoption. Bill H. Lewis (Ark.) moved an amendment, changing the main auditorium seating requirement from 14,000 to 16,000. The outcome of the voice vote was not clear, and the vote was taken by ballot. (See Item 43.)

20. The period for miscellaneous business was called by the Chair. The motions presented were referred in order to the Committee on Order of Business to be scheduled for later consideration.

21. Bill Sutton (Fla.) moved to change Bylaw 17, substituting "a majority" for "a two-thirds" vote. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 101.)

22. Bill Hale (La.) moved that we instruct the program committee (Committee on Order of Business) to extend an invitation to Jimmy Carter from Plains, Georgia (Democratic candidate for President of the United States) and arrange a time at his convenience to come before the Convention and have at least ten minutes to address the Convention. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 102.)

23. Ray K. Hodge (N.C.) moved that the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee be requested: (1) to study the use and the confusion resulting from the use of the name "Baptist Church" by independent congregations and organized denominations; (2) to suggest ways that cooperating Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated churches can identify themselves so as clearly to distinguish them for our own people and for uninitiated non-Baptists and Baptists; (3) to consider the recommendation to an appropriate Convention agency the design of an identifying symbol for voluntary use on bulletin boards, buses, newspaper advertising, bulletins, stationery, and publications of cooperating churches and institutions affiliated with the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention; and (4) that a report of the Executive Committee's proposals be made to the 1977 Convention. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 108.)

24. Hazen Simpson (Cal.) moved that the Southern Baptist Convention immediately extend encouragement to Southern Baptists, dwelling and working in Canada, by financial assistance plus any and all other means of support that we make available to ministry outside of the United States and its territory. (Referred for later consideration. See Items 104, 110, and 129.)

25. James Newton (Tenn.) moved that the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention study the need for an additional bylaw or a change in Convention procedures to provide that the results of the vote count on all written ballots be disclosed to the messengers and become a part of the public record, and report their recommendations to the Convention next year. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 143.)

26. Al Hand (Fla.) moved that a workable plan be instituted by the Credentials Committee whereby eligible and duly-elected messengers from all churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, which so desire, may be given the opportunity to pre-register for the annual Convention by means of a correspondence plan. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 144.)

27. Kent Ryals (Okla.) moved that the historic name of the Southern Baptist Convention be changed to Evangelical Baptist Convention. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 145.)

28. The Chair called for the presentation of resolutions. Robert Maples (Va.) presented a resolution on "A New Seminary for the Northeast" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

29. Charles A. Trentham (D.C.) presented a resolution on "The Bicentennial" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

30. Frank E. Breithaupt (La.) presented a resolution on "Transcendental Meditation" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

31. John W. Murphey (Okla.) presented a resolution on "The Reading of the Bible from the Pulpit" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

32. Daniel Forbes (Fla.) presented a resolution on "The Use of Rock Music by the Radio and Television Commission" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

33. Thomas J. McMahan (Va.) presented a resolution related to the invitation to President Gerald Ford to address the Convention. The Chair ruled the resolution out of order since the report of the Committee on Order of Business had been approved.

34. Lloyd Elder (Tex.) presented a resolution on the "Lord's Day Alliance" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

35. Robert Holbrook (Tex.) presented a resolution on "Abortion" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

36. Franklin Owen (Ky.) presented a resolution on "The American Bible Society" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

37. Bruce M. Morgan (Ga.) led the Convention in prayer to conclude the morning session.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 15

38. Pre-session music was presented by "Freedom '76," First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, directed by Ron Lowry.

39. President Weber called the Convention to order, and Allen R. Brown (Va.) led the Convention in singing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus."

40. James L. Sullivan (Tenn.) was presented to speak on the subject, "The Church and Biblical Authority."

41. The Convention joined in singing "How Firm a Foundation."

42. At 3:00 o'clock President Weber escorted Gerald Ford, President of the United States, to the platform while the Convention messengers stood to greet him with applause. President Weber made appropriate remarks relative to the concern of Baptists for religious liberty and then presented President Ford to speak. At the end of the President's address, the messengers expressed their appreciation by standing and with applause while President Weber escorted President Ford from the platform. The Convention joined in singing "Blessed Be the Name." The President's coming to address the Convention was a recognition of the historic significance of the Bicentennial year of our nation and also was historic in that he was the first President to address the Convention while in office.

43. Vice-president Monroe (Fla.) assumed the chair and recognized Doyle Carlton (Fla.) for the continuation of the Executive Committee report. Secretary Kendall reported that the vote on the amendment on Recommendation No. 6B carried. (See Item 19.) The motion to adopt the recommendation as amended passed.

Recommendation No. 6B

We recommend that we amend the procedures utilized by the Executive Committee to provide:

(1) Convention cities must guarantee 6,500 hotel and motel rooms with a majority within walking distance or ten minute bus ride.

(2) The main auditorium must seat 16,000 and provide proportionate exhibit space.

(3) Total block reservations at hotels and motels within walking distance or ten minute bus ride shall be limited to 40 percent of the total rooms committed by each hotel or motel.

(4) Outside of the Convention and Woman's Missionary Union headquarters

hotel, limit the total reservations for hotels or motels within walking distance or ten minutes bus trip to fifty rooms for any one group.

44. Olan Runnels (Mo.) presented Recommendation No. 7 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 7

We recommend that Article VI, 1. (1) and (2), and 2. (2) of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention be amended as follows (proposed changes are in boldface italics):

1. The general boards of the Convention shall be composed as follows:
 - (1) *Twelve (12)* members chosen from the city or vicinity of the state in which the board is located, but not more than *three (3)* local members elected from the same church.
 - (2) One (1) member chosen from each cooperating state; and one (1) additional member from each state having *two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000)* members, and another additional member for each additional two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members in such state.
2. The trustees of institutions and commissioners shall be composed as follows:
 - (1) no change
 - (2) If the composition of the trustees or commissioners is not determined by charter requirements, the body of trustees or commissioners shall be composed of one (1) member chosen from each cooperating state and *eight (8)* local members from the *city or vicinity in which the agency is located*, but not more than *two (2)* local members shall be *chosen* from the same church.

NOTE: It is understood that all local members affected by this change shall serve out their normal term or terms for which they are eligible.

45. Howard Cobble (Ga.) presented Recommendation No. 8 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 8

We recommend the approval of the charter for the Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary as follows:

CHARTER OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST COMMISSION ON THE AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The undersigned natural person or persons, having capacity to contract and acting as the incorporator or incorporators of a corporation under the Tennessee General Corporation Act, adopt the following charter for such corporation:

1. The name of the corporation is The Southern Baptist Commission on The American Baptist Theological Seminary.
2. The duration of the corporation is perpetual.
3. The address of the principal office of the corporation in the State of Tennessee shall be 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, 37219, County of Davidson.
4. The corporation is not for profit.
5. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:
To act as the agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, a nonprofit Georgia corporation, in respect to the American Baptist Theological Seminary, a nonprofit Tennessee corporation.
6. This corporation is to have no members.
7. The Board of Directors of this corporation shall be elected by the Southern Baptist Convention.
8. The corporation shall have all the powers granted corporations under the laws of the State of Tennessee. However, notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the corporation shall exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes of organizations set forth in the subsection of Section 501 (c)

of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 under which the corporation chooses to qualify for exemption, as the same now exists, or as it may be amended from time to time.

9. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, no person shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the corporation from any source, after the payment of all debts and obligations of the corporation, shall be used for or distributed to the Southern Baptist Convention.

This Charter may not be amended without the prior express approval of the Southern Baptist Convention.

46. James P. Wesberry (Ga.) presented Recommendation No. 9 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 9

We recommend the approval of the Restated Charter of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention as follows:

RESTATED CHARTER OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

UNDER SECTION 48-304 OF THE GENERAL CORPORATION ACT

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 48-304 of the Tennessee General Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation not for profit adopts the following restated charter:

Part I:

1. The name of the corporation is: **HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.**

2. The duration of the corporation is perpetual.

3. The address of the principal office of the corporation shall be Nashville, Tennessee, County of Davidson.

4. The corporation is not for profit.

5. The purpose of the Historical Commission is to support the Southern Baptist Convention in its task by leading Baptists to preserve, know, and utilize their heritage; and by encouraging and assisting them in recording Baptist history, preserving the records for study and research, and endeavoring to secure the careful consideration of their history as decisions are made and plans projected, said purpose having been adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as a part of the Historical Commission Program Statement, June 11, 1974.

6. This corporation is to have no members.

7. The corporation shall be an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention and shall act in compliance with its Constitution, Bylaws, and Business and Financial Plan. The Commissioners who shall constitute the Board of Directors of the corporation, shall be elected by the Southern Baptist Convention in such manner and for such term of office as may be provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

8. This corporation shall have and be entitled to exercise all powers which a nonprofit corporation of its nature may have and exercise under the laws of the State of Tennessee, as now in effect and hereinafter amended, subject to the limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code to retain its status as a tax exempt organization.

9. The corporation shall neither have nor exercise any power nor shall it engage directly or indirectly in an activity that would invalidate its status (1) as a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Tennessee, (2) as a corporation which is exempt from Federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as may from time to time be amended, or (3) as a corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) and other sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as may be amended.

10. This corporation shall not engage in any business, trade, avocation, or profession for gain or profit. The corporation is one which will have no pecuniary gain or profit and is organized for other than profit purposes and no part of any net earnings thereof shall inure to the benefit of any individual.

11. This Charter is subject to amendment in the manner provided for by the statutes of the State of Tennessee upon the prior approval and authority of the Southern Baptist Convention.

12. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Commissioners shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, distribute all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations, organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an organization or organizations described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, including any statutes which succeed or amend such Code, as the Commissioners, acting pursuant to the directions of the Southern Baptist Convention, shall determine.

Part II:

1. The date the original Charter was filed with the Secretary of State was August 24, 1951, recorded in Corporation Record Book, Miscellaneous A-17, page 487.

2. Said original Charter was later amended by filing said amendment with the Secretary of State on June 30, 1964, recorded in Corporation Record Book, Miscellaneous P-49, page 5198.

3. The restated Charter restates the text of the original and amended Charter specifically striking Article 7 of the original Charter in all of its parts and substituting therefor general powers of the not-for-profit corporation set forth herein as Part I paragraph 8; striking Article 5 of the original Charter and making no substitution therefor the same being a part of the Bylaws; and striking the entire contents of the amendment to the Charter the same no longer being germane.

This restated Charter has been submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting and the same has been duly approved by the action of that body on the 15th day of June, 1976.

47. B. C. Tschudy (N.C.) presented Recommendation No. 10 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 10

We recommend that Southeastern Seminary be authorized to amend its charter to provide that the title of the chief executive officer of the board be "chairman and vice-chairman" rather than "president and vice-president."

48. Thomas Downing (Md.) presented Recommendation No. 11 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 11

We recommend that the Radio and Television Commission be authorized to add the following paragraph to the section on "Relationships" in its program statement (Page 48 of the *Organization Manual*, 1975 Revised.)

"5. That the Radio and Television Commission provide on the request of the churches, associations, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention agencies, custom radio and television media consultation, custom placement, and production and that where these services are utilized, it provide custom general media consultation services, but shall not print or sell material not directly related to radio and television. The Radio and Television Commission will recognize and respect program responsibilities of other Southern Baptist Convention agencies."

49. W. Ches Smith, III (Ga.) presented Recommendation No. 12 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 12

We recommend that the Sunday School Board be authorized to make the following changes in the programs of Church Administration Development and Church Library Development and to add a new program of Family Ministry Development.

The Program of Church Administration Development:

PURPOSE—To develop services and materials acceptable for use by Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions in establishing, conducting, improving, and supporting the ministry of pastors and other church staff members; deacons; church councils; church officers; church committees; day care; kindergarten; church vocations recruitment, nurture, and career assessment; and in encouraging and aiding the pastors and church staffs in their total life relationships.

The Program of Church Library Development:

PURPOSE—To develop services and materials acceptable for use by Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions in establishing, conducting, enlarging, and improving church library services, providing and promoting the use of printed and audiovisual resources, consulting with church leaders and members in the use of these resources, and general tract and Bible distribution.

The Program of Family Ministry Development:

PURPOSE—To develop the services and materials acceptable for use by Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions in establishing, conducting, and improving family ministry services of marriage and family enrichment, parent enrichment skills, ministries to single persons, premarriage and remarriage education, and personal and spiritual enrichment for senior adults and equipping leaders of senior adults.

FUNCTIONS—(1) Conduct program, materials, and marketing research. (2) Design program, materials, and field services. (3) Develop materials. (4) Perform field services to undergird the program and interpret and implement effective use of the materials.

RELATIONSHIPS—The unique relationships of this program to other Southern Baptist Convention programs are stated in the Program of Church Services and Materials Development. The Church Services and Materials Division office is accountable for maintaining these relationships. It may delegate the responsibility for operating within the state relationships to program leaders.

50. Mrs. Roy Bass (Tex.) presented Recommendation No. 13 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 13

We recommend adoption of the following resolution:

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND TAX REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, The Tax Reform Act of 1969 requires certain nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations to file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) annual statements respecting income, receipts, and disbursements but exempts religious bodies and their "integrated auxiliaries" from this requirement; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Service is seeking to establish, by administrative regulation instead of legislation, a legally valid definition of "integrated auxiliary"; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Service's effort derives from the premise that Internal Revenue Service is competent to decide what is and what is not relevant to the mission of churches and religious bodies; and

WHEREAS, The Internal Revenue Service's proposed definition and illustrations, as published in the *Federal Register* on February 11, 1976, would exclude religious groups' schools, hospitals, orphanages, homes for aged persons, etc., from the category of "integrated auxiliaries" and thus require them to file additional tax reports; and

WHEREAS, There is such variety among religious groups as to make it impossible for the Internal Revenue Service to impose its own concept of what is religious without (a) establishing, by governmental regulations, a uniformity of religion which offends both the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise

Clause of the First Amendment and (b) requiring the intrusion of government into religion's precincts; and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have historically regarded, and now regard, evangelism, education, and benevolence as "coordinates" in religion and thus have denied, and now deny, that government has either the power or the right to exclude education and benevolence from their rightful relation to religion:

Be it therefore *Resolved*, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, assembled in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 15, 1976, do hereby protest the intrusion of the Internal Revenue Service into the affairs of church groups and their agencies, by presuming to define what is and what is not an integral part of these religious groups' mission; affirm that the preservation of religious liberty and the right to religious diversity in the United States of America depends on keeping government—federal, state, or local—out of the religious affairs of the churches; and pledge ourselves to the preservation of religious liberty which, according to our best understanding, has been good both for state and for church in our nation; and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we ask the Committee on Public Affairs to communicate this action to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue; instruct this committee to continue its zealous and responsible work in this area; and suggest to all bodies and organizations affiliated with this Convention that they be alert to detect and prompt to reject governmental threats to religious freedom and that, as need arises, they promptly and courageously inform government's agents of our alarm over bureaucratic intrusion into the precincts of religious bodies and their agencies.

51. C. Vinton Koons (D.C.) presented Recommendation No. 14 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Recommendation No. 14

We recommend adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ON EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution provides that Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting free exercise thereof; and,

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention in the past has consistently opposed excessive government interference with ministries of the local churches and the agencies which help and support them to promote and carry out their mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress, through Section 3 (33) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and Section 414 (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended (Code), has arrogated unto itself the authority to define a church in the context of defining the term "church plan"; and

WHEREAS, ERISA and the Code distinguish between a church and an agency of a church or convention of churches, and provide that an agency cannot participate in a church plan after December 31, 1982; and

WHEREAS, Ministers and lay employees of the Southern Baptist Convention are employed interchangeably by churches and church-related agencies participating in denominational plans maintained with the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention and the thirty-three individual state Baptist conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, oversee, supervise, and contribute to the retirement annuity plans of the churches and the denomination maintained with the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Therefore be it *Resolved*, that we the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in annual meeting in June, 1976, at Norfolk, Virginia, urge our elected representatives in Congress to support legislation to amend Section 3 (33) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and Section 414 (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (Code) relating to the definition of

"church plan" so that church related agencies are recognized as part of a church or convention of churches and entitled to participate in a church plan.

52. George E. Capps, Jr. (Tenn.) presented the report of the Education Commission and moved its adoption. Ben C. Fisher (Tenn.) spoke to the report, using the subject, "Looking to the Third Century with Confidence." The report was adopted.

53. The period of miscellaneous business was called. Bryan Robinson (Fla.) moved that this Convention respectfully instruct the Executive Committee to revise the program statement relative to the Christian Life Commission with two purposes in view: (1) encouraging that Commission to continue keeping Southern Baptists alert to current issues and pitfalls while suggesting ways to strengthen Christian witnessing and deepen Christian commitment, and (2) requiring the Christian Life Commission, when speaking for public consumption on any opinion not already voted by the Southern Baptist Convention, to make it abundantly and unmistakably clear that they are speaking only for themselves and not for the Convention. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 146.)

54. Charles F. Kindred (Va.) presented a resolution on "Abortion in Baptist Hospitals" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

55. Charles V. Petty (N.C.) presented a resolution on "Legislation for Safety of Children in Camps" (referred to the Committee on Resolutions).

56. Dean Grelling (Cal.) moved that all ecumenical statements in Southern Baptist Convention literature be stopped. (Referred for later consideration. See Item 147.)

57. A motion to adjourn passed, and the afternoon session was concluded with prayer by Joe Whitt (Ala.).

Tuesday Evening, June 15

58. Presession music was presented by The Centurymen, directed by Buryl Red (N.Y.).

59. President Weber called the Convention to order, and the messengers sang "To God Be the Glory," led by Ron Lowry (Tex.), after which Earl H. Wilson (Tenn.) led the Convention in prayer.

60. Bailey Smith (Okla.) was presented to speak on the subject, "Let the Church Stand Up in Today's World."

61. Lynn E. May, Jr. (Tenn.) presented the report of the Historical Commission and moved that the report be received. The motion carried. He spoke to the report, emphasizing particularly materials prepared by the Commission for use by churches in the celebration of their heritage and of the Bicentennial of the nation. He then presented a plaque to the pastor of the Lawtonville, S.C., Baptist Church, which had won first prize in a history-writing contest. A special feature related to the report was a dramatic monologue by Quinn Pugh (Md.) impersonating Isaac Backus in his championship of religious liberty.

62. W. O. Vaught (Ark.) presented an appeal for an offering from the messengers to assist in defraying the expenses of the image magnification facilities.

63. The Chair announced the time for the election of officers and called for nominations for president. Richard Jackson (Ariz.) nominated Kenneth Chafin (Tex.).

64. Kenneth Balthrop (N.M.) nominated Clift W. Brannon (Tex.).

65. Frank Minton (Ohio) nominated Adrian Rogers (Tenn.).

66. George V. McCotter (N.C.) nominated Stewart B. Simms (S.C.).

67. Jerry Glisson (Tenn.) nominated Jack Taylor (Tex.).

68. Jesse Fletcher (Tenn.) nominated James L. Sullivan (Tenn.).

69. Adrian Rogers asked that his name be withdrawn since he had not agreed to its being submitted and would decline the nomination.

70. Ballots were cast for president.

71. Chairman Puckett moved that the allotted time be given to the remaining features of the evening program, and the motion passed.

72. Robert E. Naylor (Tex.) was recognized to present the reports of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. He moved that their reports be received, and the motion passed. Naylor, assisted by the other five seminary presidents—Harold K. Graves, Milton B. Ferguson, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Duke K. McCall, and W. Randall Lolley—emphasized the mission of the seminaries in terms of the significance of theological education for the life and mission of Southern Baptist churches. A solo by Mrs. Virginia Seelig (Tex.) concluded the presentation.

73. B. Conrad Johnston (Va.) was presented to introduce a special feature: "Born to Serve": The Cooperative Program Forum. The presentation involved a dramatic cast, supported by The Centurymen, to depict the beginning of the Cooperative Program and its tremendous contribution through the past fifty years to the total program of Southern Baptists.

74. President Weber announced that the report of the ballot for president had not been received and then led in prayer to conclude the evening session.

Wednesday Morning, June 16

75. Pre-session music was presented by the "Cooperative Program," youth choir of the First Baptist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas, directed by Mrs. Delbert Taylor (Ark.).

76. Gary M. Horton (Va.) led the messengers in singing "He Keeps Me Singing."

77. President Weber convened the body and asked Secretary Kendall to announce the result of the ballot for president.

78. James L. Sullivan (Tenn.) was elected. Kendall announced the current registration of messengers, 17,986. Also, he made interesting comments about the gavel being used by the president, which was made of wood from the pulpit of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, S.C., the first Baptist church established in the South.

79. Chairman Puckett announced that business items presented in the previous day's sessions would be considered at 11:40 A.M., following the order of their presentation.

80. Alton McEachern (N.C.) was presented to speak on the subject, "The Church in the Redemption of the Family."

81. The Chair called for nominations for first vice-president. Lee Satterfield (Va.) nominated Ira Craft (S.C.).

82. Andrew Tampling (Ala.) nominated Dotson M. Nelson, Jr. (Ala.).

83. Bob Blevins (Ohio) nominated Paul Payne (Ohio).
 84. Messengers cast their ballots for first vice-president.
 85. The Chair recognized Andrew Tampling (Ala.), chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, for the first part of their report.
 86. Jim Martin (Neb.) presented Resolution No. 1 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 1—On The American Bible Society

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention in 1976, continues to recognize the importance of the availability of the Gospel in the language of the people, and
 WHEREAS, The American Bible Society provides an essential worldwide service for the church through the translation, publication, and distribution of the Scriptures, and

WHEREAS, The Society performs many special services for the churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, and

WHEREAS, The Society offers Scriptures to the blind, to men and women in the armed forces, and to patients in Veteran's Hospitals free of charge, and

WHEREAS, The American Bible Society, working in conjunction with members of the United Bible Societies, is expanding the Good News for New Readers program, and enabling people to read the Word of God for themselves for the first time.

Be it *Resolved*, that the messengers of this Convention encourage all state conventions, associations, and churches to emphasize the need for a wider reading and sharing of the gospel both in our own land and throughout the world.

Be it finally *Resolved*, that we encourage our churches to support the American Bible Society with their prayers, and give additional support to the American Bible Society over and above their contributions in previous years.

87. Ronald Prince (La.) presented Resolution No. 2 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 2—On Transcendental Meditation

WHEREAS, A movement commonly called Transcendental Meditation (TM) has developed in the United States in recent years; and

WHEREAS, This movement has affinities with Hinduism and encourages practices of a religious nature; and

WHEREAS, Persons associated with Transcendental Meditation have the same right to the free exercise of religion enjoyed by persons associated with traditional religions; and

WHEREAS, Some public schools reportedly provide instruction in Transcendental Meditation, a situation that has provoked at least one lawsuit now in litigation; and

WHEREAS, The No Establishment Clause of the First Amendment forbids Government's sponsorship, financial support, or active involvement with religion by whatever name called, by whomever conducted, and whatever means propagated, and requires Government to observe a posture of strict neutrality which neither advances nor inhibits religion;

Be it therefore *Resolved*, that we, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in annual meeting on June 16, 1976, affirm our conviction that the adherents of Transcendental Meditation are entitled to religious freedom but are not entitled to governmental assistance, call on our churches' members and leaders to be alert to governmental actions which either advance or inhibit religious features of Transcendental Meditation or any other religion; and urge agencies supported by this Convention, and particularly the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, to represent our sentiments in whatever forum issues related to governmental assistance to Transcendental Meditation may arise.

88. Jack Harwell (Ga.) presented Resolution No. 3 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 3—On Religious Freedom For All People

WHEREAS, Baptists have long stood for religious freedom and continue to believe and practice freedom of worship for themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, In some parts of the world certain governments and political leaders deny complete religious and civil freedom to some citizens; and

WHEREAS, In Soviet Russia such Christian leaders as the Rev. Georgi Vins, Secretary for the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians and Baptists have been imprisoned for the alleged "crime" of serving the congregations which elected them as pastors; and

WHEREAS, Such acts of religious and civil oppression infringe upon inalienable human rights and endanger sincere efforts toward international understanding and world peace;

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the Southern Baptist Convention in annual session in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 16, 1976, reaffirm its historic commitment to full religious and civil freedom for all peoples everywhere; and

Be it further *Resolved*, that messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention urge leaders of the Soviet Union and all other nations to immediately cease all policies which deprive citizens of their God-given rights to religious and political liberty; and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we as Southern Baptists pledge our renewed prayer support to all who work for world peace, international goodwill and personal liberty for all members of the human family.

89. Nelson Duke (Mo.) presented Resolution No. 4 and moved its adoption. Ray Jones (Va.) asked a question about "indiscriminate." Bob Holbrook (Tex.) moved to amend the resolution by striking the last paragraph. Discussion followed by Holbrook and James E. Wood (D.C.). Owen Duncan (S.C.) moved to amend the amendment, but since the time for the order had expired the Chair ruled that the matter pending would be further considered at the announced time for action on resolutions in a subsequent session. (See Items 125 and 133.)

90. Perry Sanders (La.) presented the report of the Committee on Committees, naming the Committee on Boards for the coming year, with Carl Duck (Tex.) as chairman, and moved the adoption of the report. The motion passed.

91. Travis Berry (Tex.) presented the report of the Committee on Boards, noting corrections from the printed list, and moved its adoption. The motion passed. (See pp. 359-380 for a complete list of members of boards, institutions, and commissions.)

92. The Chair recognized Chauncy R. Daley (Ky.) to present the report of "The Committee of Seven," a committee constituted to make a study and evaluation of the Executive Committee. Chairman Daley gave an explanation of the committee's assignment and of the process in carrying out the assignment. He then presented the recommendations in order at the end of the report. As each recommendation was moved, opportunity was given for questions and clarification. Chairman Daley moved the adoption of each separate recommendation, and each motion was passed.

REPORT ON STUDY AND EVALUATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas, Texas, June 11-13, 1974, received the following recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention:

"We recommend that the Convention authorize the Convention officers elected in 1974 to appoint a committee of seven persons widely experienced in denominational life to study and evaluate the Executive Committee in the light of By-law 9, and that it report to the Convention in 1975 . . ."

The recommendation was approved and the following persons were named to constitute the Committee of Seven: Harold C. Bennett, Olin T. Binkley, W. A. Criswell, C. R. Daley, Daniel R. Grant, H. H. Hobbs, and Alma Hunt.

This committee reported the progress of its study to Southern Baptist Convention messengers meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, June 10-12, 1975, and requested a one-year extension for completion of the study. The extension was granted and the study was continued. Following the two-year study the committee brings the following report.

APPRECIATION

The Committee of Seven wishes to thank all who contributed to this study task. The committee is profoundly grateful to the professional staff and to all members of the Executive Committee, past and present, with whom we have conferred.

The Committee is also greatly indebted to agency staff members who proved to be informed and articulate persons. They understood the purpose of the study and expressed their thoughts about the work of the Executive Committee with candor and kindness.

Finally, we are grateful to the Holy Spirit who, we trust, has been our helper as we have sought to serve Southern Baptists in their divinely assigned mission.

PLAN OF STUDY

The specific focus of this study was upon the structure and functions of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention as set forth in Bylaw 9. The plan of study included the following: (1) Review of the history of the formation and development of the Executive Committee from 1917 to the present; (2) examination of recent studies of the Executive Committee, including the brief self-study by the Committee of Fifteen and selected books and articles on the purpose and value of the Executive Committee by competent Baptist writers; (3) survey of the reports of the Executive Committee to the Southern Baptist Convention from 1959 to the present; (4) study of Bylaw 9 and each document to which it refers; (5) examination of the Bylaws of the Executive Committee and related material in the *Orientation Manual*; (6) observation of the Executive Committee at work in regular meetings and a review of the minutes of the annual meetings of the Executive Committee for the past ten years; (7) interviews, first of all, with members of the professional staff of the Executive Committee; (8) interviews with chief executives of the boards, institutions, commissions, and standing committees of the Southern Baptist Convention; (9) interviews with selected Baptist leaders well acquainted with the policy and procedures of the Executive Committee, including several past and present members of the Executive Committee; (10) consultations with Southern Baptist state executive secretaries and editors; (11) consideration of statements by other Southern Baptists who submitted their views in writing or attended a hearing arranged for those who wished to meet with the Committee of Seven.

A HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has been a vital factor in the life and work of the Southern Baptist Convention and the denomination since 1917. At New Orleans on May 17, 1917, the Convention voted to create an executive committee of seven and assigned to it the following responsibility:

"The duties of the committee shall be to have oversight of the arrangements for the meetings of the Convention with power to change both the time and place of meeting in case an emergency arises making such change necessary; that this committee shall act for the Convention ad interim on such matters as may arise pertaining to the general business of the Convention and not otherwise provided for in its plans of work; that this committee shall also be empowered to act in an advisory way on all questions submitted to it on matters arising between the Boards of this Convention, but only on request of one or more of the Boards concerned; that this committee shall have no further duties except as other things may be specifically committed to it by the Convention itself at its annual meeting."

In 1919 the phrase, "but only on request of one or more of the Boards concerned," was deleted from the description of the Executive Committee's responsibilities. Also in 1919 the membership of the Committee was enlarged to include

the officers of the Convention and one representative from each state and one representative from each agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1926 the Committee was assigned additional responsibility, and in 1927 it was constituted as a full-time agency of the Convention with a professional staff and with an enlarged scope of functions.

In 1927 the responsibilities and effectiveness of the Executive Committee were increased, its headquarters were established in Nashville, Tennessee, and Austin Crouch was elected its first executive secretary. He devoted his intelligence and energy to that position until his retirement in 1946. He was succeeded by Duke K. McCall who served with distinction as executive secretary-treasurer from 1946 to 1951. Porter Routh, the present executive secretary-treasurer, was elected in 1951 and under his leadership the Executive Committee has been reorganized and has multiplied its usefulness in the cohesiveness, continuity, and creative program of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the denomination as a whole.

In 1958 the Executive Committee was reorganized as a result of the report of the Committee To Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Program (Branch Committee). Six recommendations from that study committee placing additional tasks upon the Executive Committee were adopted by the Convention on May 22, 1958. They were: (1) Development of an appropriate report format to assist the agencies of the Convention in the presentation of their reports; (2) review and presentation as information to the Convention the budgets of all Convention agencies; (3) consideration of an expanded public relations program; (4) transfer of the promotion of stewardship to the Stewardship Commission; (5) organization of the Executive Committee into subcommittees; (6) search for funds to finance the construction or purchase of physical facilities to be used by the Executive Committee.

The magnitude and complexity of the work of the Executive Committee have been increased since 1950 by the continued growth of the denomination, the expansion of the geographical area, the increase in number of agencies, the greater involvement in denominational planning, the program statements approved by the Convention and assigned to the agencies, and other factors.

AFFIRMATIVE APPRAISAL

1. A strong Executive Committee is indispensable in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention. The present scope and strength of our Southern Baptist organizational life is unthinkable apart from the Executive Committee and its functions.

2. The organizational structure of the Executive Committee is essentially sound. It shows genius on the part of our forefathers who have given us a system which promotes maximum efficiency while providing the checks and balances necessary to protect Baptist liberties and autonomy.

3. The Executive Committee is blessed with highly capable and committed professional staff members. They sincerely execute their assignments and attempt to be fair and impartial toward all agencies* of the Convention. They make a sincere effort to provide committee members with needed background material in advance of meetings.

4. There is evidence that the Executive Committee is endeavoring to perform faithfully the functions assigned to it by the Convention as set forth in Bylaw 9.

5. All meetings of the Executive Committee, its subcommittees, and work groups are open to concerned constituents although executive sessions can be called under unusual circumstances. A wide range of denominational leadership, including agency heads, state executive secretaries, and state editors is invited to participate in Executive Committee sessions.

6. *The Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention* dated January 1, 1975, and *The Southern Baptist Convention Program Budget and Financial Data for 1974-1975* indicate that the Executive Committee and its staff have done a commendable job in compiling and keeping updated the documents called for in Bylaw 9.

7. A reading of the minutes of Executive Committee meetings for the past 10 years reveals that the Executive Committee keeps comprehensive and accurate records of its work.

*—The term "agencies" used in this report includes boards, institutions, commissions, and standing committees; "trustees" as used in this report refers to board members, institution trustees, and commission members.

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

In the study and evaluation of the Executive Committee in light of Bylaw 9, the findings obligate this Study Committee to call attention to problems and needs not directly related to Bylaw 9 but vital in the function of the Executive Committee under Bylaw 9.

1. SELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Finding: While the method of nominating and electing Executive Committee members may be sound in theory, the manner in which it works is not altogether satisfactory. Executive Committee members are nominated to the Convention by the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. Nominees from the various states and their qualifications frequently are known only by the two members on the Committee on Boards from those states. Without information with which to react responsibly, members of the Committee on Boards usually endorse one another's nominations. This makes room for personal favoritism and cronyism in the selection of nominees.

Suggestion: Adequate biographical information, experience, and other pertinent data on all Executive Committee nominees should be provided for and carefully considered by all members of the Committee on Boards before making their nominations to the Convention. Caution should be taken to prevent even the appearance of unwholesome denominational politics.

2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Findings: The crucial importance of the responsibilities and the heavy demands in time and energy expected of Executive Committee members are not fully realized by all who are elected to serve. Absenteeism from meetings limits effectiveness and pressure for early adjournment diminishes deliberation on important issues.

Suggestion: Prospective nominees should be fully informed of the responsibilities and demands upon Executive Committee members. As far as possible they should be recommended for election only after expressing willingness to attend an extensive orientation program for new members and agreeing to devote the time and effort needed for performance of the Executive Committee responsibilities.

3. ORIENTATION AND BRIEFING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Finding: The present orientation program for new members of the Executive Committee has proven to be very helpful but appears to be inadequate.

Suggestion: The scope and depth of the orientation program should be more adequate. Consideration should be given to inviting each year a limited number of Southern Baptist Convention agencies to provide agency perspective on the work of the Executive Committee and its relationships to the agencies. In addition to orientation for new members, ways should be sought to keep Executive Committee members updated on pertinent information as long as they serve on the Executive Committee.

4. A STAFF-ORIENTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: The Executive Committee as it now functions is strongly staff oriented. This is not because staff personnel are domineering or power hungry but because most Executive Committee members devote full time to other responsibilities and find limited time for their Executive Committee duties. Consequently, they depend upon staff members for background work, research, and other extensive preparation required for Executive Committee meetings.

Staff personnel are selected because of their unique qualifications and they are expected to give expertise and creativity to the work of the committee. The result is a staff-oriented Executive Committee.

Suggestion: Ways should be found to achieve more involvement of Executive Committee members in the decision making process of the Committee. The following suggestions, though not a comprehensive list, might be helpful in achieving this:

(1) More careful study by Executive Committee members of background materials on major issues prior to Executive Committee meetings; (2) delineation and clarification of major issues by subcommittee chairmen and staff personnel at the time of their referral to subcommittees; (3) adequate opportunity and time

in plenary sessions for discussion and questions on major issues before final action on subcommittee recommendations; (4) use of a small group of experienced Executive Committee members to meet with the professional staff as needed between regular sessions of the Committee.

5. COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AGENCIES

Finding: Better communication and more effective cooperation between the Executive Committee and the agencies constitute a continuing need in Southern Baptist Convention organizational life. Agencies feel their situations are not always understood by members of the Executive Committee. They believe Executive Committee members should be familiar with the particular program and problems of each agency. Executive Committee members, on the other hand, sometimes feel they do not have adequate information to respond intelligently to proposals related to the agencies.

The present plan of using work groups of Executive Committee subcommittees to relate to the agencies is a step in the right direction but is not enough.

The efforts of the Executive Committee and its staff to be completely impartial and fair toward all agencies tend to give the impression of coolness toward the agencies.

Suggestion: Ways should be devised for Executive Committee staff and members and agency staffs and trustees to be more intimately acquainted with the work of each other. Possibilities for consideration are: an annual retreat for Executive Committee members and agencies heads, invitations from Convention agencies for Executive Committee representatives to sit in their board meetings, special reports in addition to financial data prepared by agencies for Executive Committee members, and attendance of agency board chairmen and trustees in Executive Committee meetings.

Effective communication and unity of purpose among Southern Baptist organizational leaders cannot be guaranteed by any kind of organizational structure. These result from commitment of competent and consecrated leaders to the purpose and objectives of the denomination. Such communication and cooperation are of inestimable value.

6. THE BUDGETARY FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: The one most far-reaching responsibility of the Executive Committee is the recommendation of allocations for all Convention agencies receiving Cooperative Program funds to carry out their assignments from the Convention. Presently only the Program subcommittee members hear all the budget presentations and requests from the agencies. Consequently members of other subcommittees tend to feel they are expected to vote on budget allocation recommendations without sufficient background and knowledge.

Observation of past experience shows that as many as a half-dozen different ways have been used for budget presentations. This would indicate no plan has been considered entirely satisfactory.

There has appeared to be an imbalance on the work loads of the subcommittees with the Program subcommittee having too much and the Finance and Administrative subcommittees having too little. However, Executive Committee staff members report that recent innovations have resulted in less hurried budget hearings and deliberations by the Program subcommittee.

The present names given subcommittees and the functions they perform are confusing. For example, the Program subcommittee, instead of the Finance subcommittee, is responsible for the preparation of the proposed Cooperative Program budget for presentation to the full Executive Committee.

Suggestion: Budget requests from all Convention agencies should be heard as well as studied by all Executive Committee members. This is only fair to the agencies and to the Executive Committee members who are expected to vote on the final recommendations. This could be accomplished by letting the budget presentations be heard by the full Executive Committee in its regular September meeting or in another full Committee meeting prior to the February meeting in which the budget recommendations are finalized.

The names now used for the subcommittees should be examined and revised. The present Program subcommittee could be called the Program-Budget subcommittee and the present Finance subcommittee could be called the Business-Finance subcommittee.

7. AUTHORITY AND POWER IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: The Southern Baptist Convention began and remains a voluntary association of messengers from churches. However, as such a group increases in size and complexity, its center of power tends to shift from "grass roots" constituents to officially elected board members and to the staff personnel.

By virtue of its assignments the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee is powerful. It needs and does have authority commensurate with its responsibilities.

Suggestion: Caution should be taken to prevent even an unconscious trend toward undue centralization of authority in Southern Baptist organizational life. The usurpation of undue authority by the Executive Committee over the agencies of the Convention would be disastrous. At the same time, the agencies should recognize the need for the Convention to exercise reasonable review of their affairs. The authority of the Executive Committee should be kept in healthy tension with the authority of Convention-elected trustees of the agencies.

8. THE AD INTERIM STATUS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: Bylaw 9, (5), (a) states that the Executive Committee is "to act for the Convention ad interim on all matters not otherwise provided for. . . ."

There must be some committee of the Convention to act ad interim in urgent matters that arise on which action cannot be deferred until the Convention meets. However, "acting for the Convention ad interim" is not the same as "being the Convention ad interim." There is a difference and it is regrettable to note the growing practice in recent years to refer to the Executive Committee as the Convention ad interim.

Suggestion: Let there be a clear understanding that the Executive Committee is "the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive agency of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or agency," and is specifically authorized and instructed to "act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for," and that the Convention agencies act for the Convention between sessions in specific matters assigned to them in program statements and in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention.

9. THE ADVISORY FUNCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: Bylaw 9, (5), (e) authorizes the Executive Committee "to act in an advisory capacity on all questions of cooperation among the different agencies of the Convention. . . ." The Executive Committee is endeavoring to function within the limits of its advisory role though it appears to some that the Committee at times has overstepped the limits of this difficult assignment.

Suggestion: The advisory role of the Executive Committee should never become a supervisory or managerial role. In cases where agencies do not agree on questions of cooperation and do not follow the advice of the Executive Committee, the Committee should make recommendations on these matters to the Convention.

10. THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TRUSTEES OF CONVENTION AGENCIES

Finding: In Bylaw 9, section (5), (i) is by far the most controversial item. It deals with the relations between the Executive Committee and the agencies of the Convention.

This Bylaw seems to be somewhat ambivalent and is difficult to interpret. The first sentence clearly indicates that the agencies are not to be controlled or directed by the Executive Committee. However, the second sentence empowers the Executive Committee to investigate the affairs of any agency of the Convention without consultation with the staff or the controlling board of the agency.

There is a fine line where the authority derived from the principle of trusteeship and the Convention-assigned responsibilities of the Executive Committee meet. Some tension at this point is almost inevitable and is not altogether undesirable. Such a polity furnishes checks and balances necessary to preserve the freedom and the autonomy in Southern Baptist life.

Also in connection with Bylaw 9, (5), (i) is found considerable concern among the agencies over possible recommendations of the Executive Committee which might alter the programs of or even abolish an agency. Some early proposals of the Study Committee of Fifteen have been pointed out as examples.

Suggestion: This section of Bylaw 9 should be amended. The amended Bylaw should include both a strong reaffirmation of the authority and responsibility of trustees under the authority of the Convention and a clarifying statement regarding the investigative powers assigned the Executive Committee by the Convention. Such an amendment is recommended at the end of this report.

There should be periodic evaluation of agencies and their programs. However, far reaching proposals of the Executive Committee relating to agencies should be made only after very careful consideration. In instances where proposals would result in the transfer of an agency or agency responsibilities to the Executive Committee, or result in abolishing an agency, the study might more objectively be done by a committee other than the Executive Committee.

Whether it is done by the Executive Committee or another committee of the Convention, a set of rules of fair and proper procedure for recommending the restructuring or elimination of an agency should be adopted and this process should be well known by all concerned.

Some safeguard against hasty action in respect to agencies is provided in Bylaw 15 which states that no agency shall be discontinued without a majority vote at two (2) successive annual sessions of the Convention.

11. THE AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Finding: Bylaw 9, (5), (j) gives broad powers and authority to the Executive Committee commensurate with its responsibilities in performing its assignments in respect to the agencies.

Suggestion: The phrase, "advise with them," is well chosen to describe the proper relationship of the Executive Committee to the agencies.

12. AN APPROPRIATE REPORT FORM

Finding: Bylaw 9, (5), (1) calls for development of an appropriate report format to help the agencies present to the Executive Committee adequate information on program plans, accomplishments, and costs.

Such a report format has been developed and is being utilized. This report format not only serves the agencies, but also the Executive Committee in its need for data. The Bylaw wording should reflect this.

Suggestion: Not in order to change its intent, but in the interest of clarification of the meaning of this Bylaw section, a rewording of 9, (5), (1) is recommended with this report.

13. CONSISTENCY IN FORM FOR ALL SECTIONS OF BYLAW 9

Finding: Subsections of Bylaw 9, (5) lack uniformity of style.

Suggestion: A recommendation with this report reflects appropriate style changes.

Recommendations

1. The Committee of Seven recommends that Bylaw 9, (5), (i) be amended as follows:

PRESENT FORM:

"(i) The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, agencies, and institutions of the Convention. But it is instructed and commissioned to study the affairs of those boards, agencies, and institutions of the Convention, to make recommendations to them concerning needed adjustments, and also to make whatever recommendations concerning them to the Convention it deems advisable."

RECOMMENDED FORM: (Changes in wording in italics.)

(i) *To maintain open channels of communication between the Executive Committee and the trustees of the agencies of the Convention, to study and make recommendations to agencies concerning adjustments required by program assignments or by established Convention policies and practices, and, whenever deemed advisable, to make recommendations to the Convention.*

The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, agencies, and institutions of the Convention. *This is the responsibility of trustees elected by the Convention and accountable directly to the Convention.*

2. The Committee of Seven recommends that Bylaw 9, (5), (l) be amended as follows:

PRESENT FORM:

"(l) The Executive Committee shall develop an appropriate report format which will help agencies of the Convention present their reports on a more appropriate and comparable basis in order to provide more information about program plans, accomplishments, and costs."

RECOMMENDED FORM:

(l) To utilize an appropriate report format which will enable the Executive Committee to obtain from the agencies adequate and comparable information about program plans, accomplishments, and financial data.

3. The Committee of Seven recommends that for the sake of consistency of style, Bylaw 9, (5), (j), (k) and (n) be amended as follows:

PRESENT FORM:

"(j) In carrying out these instructions the Executive Committee is authorized to make its own bylaws in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention; to hold meetings whenever deemed necessary; to make reports of all meetings to the Convention; to notify all the boards, agencies, and institutions of the actions of the Convention and to advise with them as to the best way of promoting all the interests of the Convention."

RECOMMENDED FORM:

(j) To make its own bylaws in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention in carrying out these instructions to the Executive Committee; to hold meetings whenever deemed necessary; to make reports of all meetings to the Convention; to notify all the boards, agencies, and institutions of the actions of the Convention and to advise with them as to the best way of promoting all the interests of the Convention.

PRESENT FORM:

"(k) In accordance with the action of the Convention in Atlanta in 1944, the expenses of the Executive Committee shall be derived from the Operating Budget of the Convention specifically established for this purpose and formally approved by the Convention."

RECOMMENDED FORM:

(k) To derive, in accordance with the action of the Convention in Atlanta in 1944, the expenses of the Executive Committee from the Operating Budget of the Convention specifically established for this purpose and formally approved by the Convention.

PRESENT FORM:

"(n) Copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the heads of all Southern Baptist Convention agencies, and copies of the minutes of all agencies shall be sent to the office of the Executive Committee."

RECOMMENDED FORM:

(n) To send copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee to the heads of all Southern Baptist Convention agencies, and copies of the minutes of all agencies shall be sent to the office of the Executive Committee.

4. The Committee of Seven recommends that the findings and suggestions in this report be referred to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for consideration and that it bring to the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention meeting a report on its response to the suggestions in this report.

5. The Committee of Seven recommends that this report to the Convention on the Executive Committee study and the Convention name change study presented on June 10, 1975, be printed in the Convention *Annual*.

Committee:

C. R. Daley, *Chairman*
Harold C. Bennett
Olin T. Binkley

W. A. Criswell
Daniel R. Grant
H. H. Hobbs
Aimee Hunt

ITEM 100, PAGE 65, CONVENTION ANNUAL FOR 1975:

100. Daley then reported for the committee on the assignment to consider a possible name change for the Convention. He reported that a number of surveys had been made with the assistance of the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, a survey through Baptist state papers, and other surveys of special groups all of which indicated an overwhelming sentiment of opposition to a change of name. He concluded the report with the following statement: "The Committee of Seven understood its assignment by the Convention was to study the existing sentiment on a name change and report its findings to the Convention without specific instructions to make a recommendation. However, in light of its findings it is the committee's considered judgment that the name of the Southern Baptist Convention should not be changed at this time." Daley then moved adoption of the report. Discussion followed by Donald J. Brown (Md.), who moved a substitute motion as follows: "That we do not vote this year on whether or not to change the name of our denomination, but that for one year we consider the name 'Cooperative Baptist Churches' alongside our present name and that at our Convention next year the messengers will vote their choice." Further discussion followed by J. D. Grey (La.) and Brown. The substitute motion lost. The motion to adopt the report passed.

COMPLETE REPORT ON CONVENTION NAME CHANGE STUDY

During the June, 1974, meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas, " . . . W. A. Criswell (Texas) moved that the president of the Convention appoint a committee of seven members to study the possibility of changing the name of the Convention with instructions that the committee report to the Convention next year the results of the study. The motion was referred for later consideration." Subsequently, Porter Routh offered a substitute motion that the study suggested be approved and that the study be made by a seven-member committee already approved to study and evaluate the Executive Committee. After some discussion, the substitute motion passed.

The study committee has sought to learn Convention name change opinion from all levels and areas of Southern Baptist life. Some of the committee's efforts included: (1) An invitation through Baptist Press to all Southern Baptists to express their views. (2) Participation with the September, 1974, Public Relation Advisory Conference in a name change study. (3) Study of past name change studies, especially the 1966 opinion survey conducted by the Research Services Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. (4) A mass opinion poll through ballots placed in all state Baptist papers. (5) A professional opinion survey conducted by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The response to these efforts was quite heavy and decisive. The committee feels it succeeded in obtaining widespread Baptist opinion on the name change possibility for the Southern Baptist Convention. Responses received by committee members from individuals and from churches in 30 states showed 16 percent in favor of a name change and 84 percent against. The surveys made by state Baptist papers also resulted in an overwhelming rejection of a name change for Southern Baptists. The overall average percentages from 32 state Baptist paper surveys were 35 percent favoring and 65 percent opposing a name change. The state paper surveys revealed that sentiment for a name change was dominant only in some newer areas of Southern Baptist work. In other newer areas for Southern Baptists a majority opposed a name change. State groups with a majority favoring a name change were D. C., Hawaii, Kansas, New England, Michigan, New York-New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, and West Virginia. All the older state groups in the traditional area of Southern Baptists, along with the Southern Baptist groups in Alaska, Arizona-Nevada, California, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, and Ohio rejected the name change idea. Percentages against a name change in the older and larger state groups ran from two to one to nine to one.

The professional survey conducted by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board also revealed that a decisive majority of Southern Baptists opposed any change in the Convention name. The combined percentages of responses to the professional survey were approximately one-fourth for and three-fourths against a name change. Among those included in this survey were pastors, deacon chairmen, Sunday School directors, and church clerks. Of these groups, pastors were the most favorable and church clerks were least favorable to a name change.

The Committee of Seven reached its decision on the name change issue after careful study of all known reasons for and against a name change. Some valid reasons exist for a name change, especially in pioneer areas for Southern Baptists. However, overwhelming reasons for retaining the name were convincing to the committee. Some of these reasons are: (1) All the opinion polls revealed that the vast majority of Southern Baptists are strongly against any name change. (2) The name, Southern Baptists, has become identified and associated with certain doctrinal positions, traditions, and other emphases. A name change would be interpreted by some as abandoning this heritage and these invaluable traits. (3) The danger and tragedy of other groups claiming the name, "Southern Baptists," and capitalizing upon it once we dropped it for another name. Such a development, in the opinion of the committee, would be very confusing to many who identify themselves now as "Southern Baptists." (4) The long and arduous task of communicating a name change and reasons for its adoption to our own constituents, to other religious groups, and to the news media. However, neither this nor other reasons listed would have prevented a recommendation for a change in name if the committee members had strong convictions the name should be changed. (5) The difficulties and problems of inserting a new name into the charters and all the other documents of the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies and eventually into the documents of state conventions and their agencies, of district associations, and local churches. Also the legal ramifications and implications of a Convention name change in respect to wills, trusts, and deeds in which the Southern Baptist Convention is the beneficiary. (6) The absence of a consensus on a suitable new name. In letters to the committee from Baptists in thirty states, fifty-two different names were suggested with no name appearing as a popular choice.

In the state Baptist paper polls the most popular names were: (1) Cooperative Baptist Convention. This name was in the top five names submitted by twenty states; (2) Continental Baptist Convention—in the top five names submitted by 19 states; (3) United Baptist Convention—in the top five names submitted by 18 states; (4) World Baptist Convention—in the top five names submitted by 17 states; (5) Baptist Convention of America—in the top five names submitted by 15 states.

The Committee of Seven understood its assignment by the Convention was to study the existing sentiment on a name change and report its findings to the Convention without specific instructions to make a recommendation. However, in light of its findings, it is the committee's considered judgment that the name of the Southern Baptist Convention should not be changed at this time.

C. R. Daley, *Chairman*
Harold C. Bennett
Olin T. Binkley
W. A. Criswell

Dan C. Grant
Alma Hunt
H. H. Hobbs

93. Secretary Kendall reported that Dotson M. Nelson, Jr. (Ala.) was elected first vice-president. He also reported the registration of 18,191 messengers, the last person having been registered breaking the all-time record for registration.

94. Chairman Puckett announced the time for the election of the second vice-president at 11:40 A.M.

95. President Weber introduced the period for worship and the Convention sermon by Warren C. Hultgren (Okla.), pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tulsa. The Convention sang "America the Beautiful." James R. Davis (Okla.) sang "Jesus, He Is the Son of God." Based on the text, Philippians 3:7-14, Hultgren preached on the subject, "Reaffirmation of Faith."

96. The Chair called for nominations for second vice-president. Sidney M. Maddox (Ky.) nominated Truet B. Thompson (Ariz.).

97. James Graves (Fla.) nominated Mrs. Carl E. Bates (N.C.).

98. Bill Clinton (Ga.) nominated Paul Jackson (Ga.).

99. James Adkins (Ga.) nominated Lawrence Bradley (Ga.). Ballots were then cast for second vice-president.

100. Allen Bailey (N.C.) nominated Porter Routh (Tenn.) for treasurer, W. Fred Kendall (Tenn.) for registration secretary, and

Clifton J. Allen (N.C.) for recording secretary. Bailey moved that the three be elected and the motion passed—by acclamation.

101. Motions presented in previous sessions were now called for consideration. Bill Sutton (Fla.) supported the motion he had presented (Item 21). Discussion followed by James White (Ala.), H. A. Markham (Ga.), Dean Grelling (Cal.), H. H. Hobbs (Okla.), and Knox Lambert (S.C.). The previous question was voted, and the original motion lost.

102. Bill Hale (La.) supported the motion he had presented (Item 22). R. G. Puckett (Md.) made a substitute motion: That this Convention reaffirm its long tradition of non-endorsement of any political candidate and that we recommit ourselves to prayer for our leaders in government that they may be persons of wisdom, integrity, and highest character. The previous question was voted, and the substitute motion passed.

103. Ray K. Hodge (N.C.) supported the motion he had presented (Item 23), and the motion passed.

104. The Chair ruled that the motion by Hazen Simpson (Cal.) be referred to the Foreign Mission Board in keeping with its program assignment. In response to a question raised by Wayne Dehoney (Ky.), the Chair allowed a motion by Porter Routh (Tenn.) to refer the matter for consideration by the Southern Baptist Convention members of the North American Baptist Fellowship. The time was extended for discussion. Comments followed by Arthur B. Rutledge (Ga.). The outcome on the motion to refer was not certain, so that the vote was taken by ballot. (See Items 24, 110, and 129.)

105. James Yang (N.Y.) expressed concern that the sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention should provide special evangelistic opportunities and moved that plans be considered to achieve this purpose as far as possible through features of the program and the personal witness of messengers. The Chair allowed a vote to be taken, and the messengers expressed their support of the spirit of the motion.

106. Frederick G. Schlafer (Tenn.) moved that in the light of the fact that there are seven pioneer state conventions representing 100,000 Southern Baptists and recognized by the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board as cooperating conventions, but with no representation on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, boards, commissions, standing committees, and special committees, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention study Bylaw 20 and seek viable alternatives, reporting to the Convention at the annual session in 1977. (Referred to be scheduled for later consideration. See Item 148.)

107. The morning session was concluded with prayer.

Wednesday Evening, June 16

108. Pre-session music was presented by the Tidewater Area Baptist Choir, directed by Jerry P. Huling (Va.).

109. President Weber called the Convention to order, and the messengers were led in singing "God of Grace and God of Glory."

110. Secretary Kendall announced the election of Mrs. Carl E. Bates as second vice-president. He reported a current registration of 18,406. Also, he announced that the motion to refer the motion offered by Hazen Simpson (see Items 24 and 104) lost. Secretary Kendall called attention to the gavel being used by the president having come

from a bedpost of Adoniram Judson and having been presented to the Convention in 1935.

111. Charles G. Fuller (Va.) was presented to speak on the subject, "The Church and Religious Liberty."

112. President Weber recognized six Royal Ambassadors, recipients of the Service Aid Awards, a feature of the Ambassador National Service Award.

113. President Weber recognized past presidents of the Convention, paying special tribute to them, as follows: R. G. Lee (Tenn.), J. D. Grey (La.), Brooks Hays (Ark.), Ramsey Pollard (Tenn.), H. H. Hobbs (Okla.), Wayne Dehoney (Ky.), H. Franklin Paschall (Tenn.), W. A. Criswell (Tex.), Carl E. Bates (N.C.), and Owen Cooper (Miss.). K. O. White and Louie D. Newton were not present. Porter Routh asked that by common consent the recording secretary be requested to send greetings of the Convention to them, to which the Convention responded affirmatively.

114. John R. Claypool (Tex.) was recognized for the presentation of the Christian Life Commission report. He, in turn, presented Foy Valentine (Tenn.) to speak to the report. The report was received as information.

115. H. A. Markham (Ga.) asked permission to speak relative to a concern about "MACOS" in the Christian Life Commission report, a matter referred from the Convention last year. The Chair requested him to express his concern at a later miscellaneous business period.

116. Porter Routh (Tenn.) spoke of the value of the image magnification facilities following which the Convention messengers made an offering to help to defray the expenses involved.

117. President Weber read a telegram from the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in session in Hampton, Virginia, to which the recording secretary made a response in behalf of the Convention.

118. H. Franklin Paschall (Tenn.) presented the report of the Committee on Baptist State Papers, including the following recommendations, and then moved adoption of the report. The motion passed.

The committee recommended: (1) That we reaffirm our minimum circulation goal of 2,000,000 by 1980; (2) that we rejoice in last year's increase of circulation by 12,391 and look forward to a greater increase this year; (3) that we encourage Southern Baptists at the association, state, and Conventionwide levels to give active and vigorous support of all good efforts to increase circulation; (4) that we encourage Baptist churches to include Baptist state papers in their budgets and, when feasible, to make the weekly church bulletin a part of the Baptist state paper; (5) that this committee be continued in order to complete work on the readership survey with a view of "strengthening the ministry and increasing the appeal and impact of our papers."

119. President Weber recognized Warren C. Hultgren (Okla.), chairman of the Missions Challenge Committee, which was called into action by the Convention in 1974 (see the *Convention Annual*, 1974, Item 71, page 65). Chairman Hultgren was assisted in presenting the report by Carl E. Bates (N.C.), Owen Cooper (Miss.), and J. D. Grey (La.). The significance of the report and its recommendations for the Convention's entire program of world missions was stressed. Hultgren moved that the report (see the *Book of Reports*, pages 201-207) be received and that the fifteen recommendations concluding the report be adopted. The motion passed.

NOTE: The committee was assisted by the following resource persons: Arthur B. Rutledge of the Home Mission Board, Baker James Cauthen of the Foreign Mission Board, and Porter Routh and Albert McClellan of the Executive Committee. A more comprehensive report was printed and made available to the executives of Convention agencies and executives of the state conventions. Copies of the full report may be obtained for \$2.00 from the Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37219.

Recommendations of the Committee:

1. That the Convention set as its primary missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years, and that in the presentation of this message, the biblical faith be magnified so that all men, women, and children can understand the claim Jesus Christ has on their lives.

2. That the Convention reaffirm the place and responsibility of the local church in missions, and that all the agencies of the Convention be called upon to reinforce this place by magnifying and promoting the biblical concepts of missions, the importance of missions education, and the power inherent in the interdependence and cooperation of the churches.

3. That the two mission boards, assisted by other appropriate Southern Baptist Convention agencies, be requested to undertake seriously the creative addition of new patterns for work that will help accomplish the objective of every person hearing the gospel in the next 25 years, and that in the development of these patterns, full emphasis be placed upon the Bible in the communication of missions, upon research as a fundamental necessity for missions, upon cooperation as a way of magnifying the missions witness of the church, and upon doctrinal integrity as a way of preserving the faith.

4. That the two mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Sunday School Board be requested to work together to discover and implement the best ways for strengthening the biblical understanding of missions in the minds of all Southern Baptists, and that these agencies jointly report to the Convention one year from now on progress made in this assignment.

5. That the two mission boards, the Woman's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Sunday School Board be requested to work together to discover and implement plans for a broader based missions education to reach all the members of the churches, and that these agencies jointly report to the Convention one year from now on progress made in this assignment.

6. That the Convention call upon all the churches to teach the biblical revelation of Christian stewardship and develop plans and programs designed to enlist every member in the stewardship of possessions through the church; that every member be challenged to increase his contributions through the church with the tithe as a minimum goal; that the Convention call upon all the churches to increase the percentage of their giving through the Cooperative Program annually with a 50/50 division as a goal; and that the Stewardship Commission be requested to work with the state conventions to develop aggressive, sacrificial, and bold promotional programs designed to reach this objective; that the Convention call upon all pastors to teach, preach, practice, and lead their churches in the achievement of these worthy objectives; that the Convention request the state conventions to work toward a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program funds with Southern Baptist Convention causes after appropriate expenses.

7. That the two mission boards be requested to develop as many ways as possible for long and short term involvement of persons in direct mission work in the modern setting, and that in cooperation with other appropriate agencies the boards enlist and guide lay persons with practical and spiritual gifts and callings in all possible phases of mission work, especially such areas as publications, radio and television, medical work, education, etc.

8. That the Convention commend the two mission boards for their effort to establish and clarify their missions objectives and strategies, and that the boards be requested to publicize their plans among the churches.

9. That the Convention request the six seminaries, in cooperation with the

two mission boards, to review and strengthen the academic and clinical programs for the training of those dedicated to missions service.

10. That the Executive Committee work with the two mission boards, the two missionary educational organizations, the Stewardship Commission, the Sunday School Board, and the seminaries to secure full implementation of these recommendations, to coordinate denominational missions goals and action plans looking toward the 21st century; and that the Executive Committee report for the group periodically for the next five years on progress made in achievements in missions.

11. That the two mission boards be encouraged to work with the other agencies to facilitate use of their special skills in missions work, recognizing the leadership responsibility of the two boards.

12. That the two mission boards be encouraged to work together and with other appropriate agencies in developing a ministry and witness with foreigners sojourning in our land, with seamen who call at our ports, with international students in our colleges and universities, and with internationals along the borders of our nation.

13. That the Convention reaffirm the plan adopted for the years of bold mission, 1977-79, that stresses witness to secular society by: (1) extending the Bible teaching program, (2) witnessing to every person, (3) emphasizing mission action, and (4) boldly confronting the world with the gospel through bold missions, and that all agencies be instructed to promote vigorously the years of bold mission under the theme, "Let the Church Reach Out," in keeping with the agreed upon plans.

14. That the Convention request the Committee on Order of Business to give major portions of time in the 1977 and 1978 Conventions to the bold mission thrust, "Let the Church Reach Out," and that it use appropriately related themes in planning for these Conventions.

15. That the Convention call upon all our churches, state conventions, institutions, and Southern Baptist Convention agencies to unite in a viable and dynamic program for calling out the called. We urge our Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries to conduct frequently scheduled services challenging students to answer, "Here am I, send me," if they feel called to the mission field or to other church related vocations. Furthermore, we request teachers in these educational institutions to consistently emphasize the biblical basis for stewardship and missions. We urge all our assemblies, encampments, and conference centers to structure their programs to include an emphasis on stewardship and missions, especially conducting services for calling out the called. Also, we request pastors to lead their churches to observe at least annually, Life Commitment Sunday and/or other special services for calling out the called. To implement and articulate these missions challenge plans, we ask our state Baptist papers to give their usual cooperation in publicizing them to everyone in our Southern Baptist fellowship.

Warren C. Hultgren, *Chairman*
 J. D. Grey
 Mrs. Robert Flinz, *Vice-chairman*
 Mrs. James Landes
 *James G. Harris
 Owen Cooper
 J. R. White
 Glen E. Braswell, *Secretary*
 Travis S. Berry
 E. H. Westmoreland

M. Hunter Riggins, Jr.
 Mrs. E. S. Stratton
 Russell H. Dilday, Jr.
 Carl E. Bates
 Mrs. I. W. Bowen, III
 M. Dale Allen
 Gene Garrison
 Grayson Glass
 Lewis I. Myers

*Replaced W. O. Vaught, Jr. who served the first year.

120. Following the singing of "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" by the messengers, President Weber recognized Baker James Cauthen (Va.), executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, for the presentation of the Board report. Secretary Cauthen recognized David Y. K. Wong, president of the Baptist World Alliance, and Mrs. Wong, and then presented Roy Clifford (Va.), vice-president of the Board, to preside over the discussion of the report. Louis R. Cobbs (Va.) presented a group of newly-appointed missionaries. J. Winston Crawley (Va.) and R. Keith Parks (Va.) stressed urgent aspects of the Board's work. Secretary Cauthen challenged the messengers with the truth that every Christian is under the mandate of the Great

Commission. He moved the adoption of the report, and the motion passed.

121. The Convention joined in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and Morris Chapman (N.M.) led in prayer to conclude the session.

Thursday Morning, June 17

122. Presession music was presented by "Jubilate," University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, directed by Carl Beard, following which Paul Bobbitt (Fla.) led the Convention in singing "Amazing Grace."

123. Vice-President Riggins convened the body and presented Foy Valentine (Tenn.) to speak on the subject, "The Church and National Righteousness."

124. Grady C. Cothen (Tenn.), president of the Sunday School Board, was recognized to present the report of the Board. James K. Abernathy (Tex.), chairman of the Board, noted typographical errors in the printed report and then moved its adoption. President Cothen spoke to the report, calling attention to the response of the Board to two matters referred by the 1975 Convention (see pages 142-145). He then gave opportunity for questions from the floor. Archie Grigg (Ill.) raised a question about some statement in a given periodical, and Cothen gave assurance that his concern would receive attention. T. M. Linnens (N.C.) spoke in further support of the motion he had presented to the 1975 Convention. Discussion followed by Cothen, D. Harmon Moore (Ind.), Roger Abington (Tenn.), and Don Everson (Fla.). The motion to adopt the report passed.

125. The Chair announced the order for the final report of the Committee on Resolutions and, hence, the resumption of consideration of Resolution No. 4 (see Item 89). The Chair then ruled out of order the amendment by Owen Duncan (S.C.) in that it did not relate to the amendment to strike the last paragraph but rather to the resolution as a whole. The previous question was voted, and the motion to amend by striking the last paragraph lost. Owen Duncan (S.C.) moved to amend the resolution by adding two paragraphs, the first to follow the fourth paragraph, as follows: "Whereas, Every decision for an abortion, for whatever reason, must necessarily involve the decision to terminate the life of an innocent human being;" and the second to become a final paragraph, as follows: "Be it further *Resolved*, that we reject, as contrary to Southern Baptist doctrine and tradition, any suggestion that Southern Baptists should become political activists in support of permissive abortion legislation." The time for the order having expired, Chairman Puckett moved to resume the regular order, also to continue the debate on Resolution No. 4 after the sermon by Harold A. Carter (see Item 133). The motion to resume the regular order passed.

126. Robert S. Denny (D.C.), general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, was recognized to present the report of the Alliance. He moved its adoption, and the motion passed. He then was assisted in giving information about the Alliance by David Y. K. Wong, V. Carney Hargroves, Charles M. Roselle, Lee Satterfield, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, James L. Sullivan, C. Ronald Goulding, and W. A. Criswell.

127. James E. Wood (D.C.) was recognized to present the report of the Public Affairs Committee. He presented staff associates and

then spoke to the report, after which he moved the adoption of the report. The motion passed.

128. Kendall Berry (Tenn.) presented the report of the Southern Baptist Foundation and moved that the report be received. The motion passed. Berry recognized Mrs. Christine Bess, a staff member, and two members of the board of directors, C. Leroy Norton, Jr. (Tenn.) and William H. Coles, Jr. (Tenn.), and then spoke to the report.

129. The next order called for matters of miscellaneous business. The first matter was further consideration of the motion by Hazen Simpson (Cal.)—see Items 24, 104, and 110. The Chair ruled that it be referred to the Foreign Mission Board in keeping with Bylaw 17. A point of order was raised, protesting the ruling of the Chair. The body sustained the ruling, and the motion was so referred.

130. Chairman Puckett, for the Committee on Order of Business, recommended William L. Self (Ga.) for the 1977 Convention sermon, with Duke K. McCall (Ky.) as the alternate, and William J. Reynolds (Tenn.) as the director of music. Puckett moved the approval of the recommendation, and the motion passed.

131. H. A. Markham (Ga.) expressed strong concern to the effect that, from his viewpoint, the response of the Christian Life Commission and the Public Affairs Committee to the reference from the 1975 Convention—to make a study of "Man: A Course of Study" (MACOS) in public school curriculum materials (see the 1975 *Annual*, page 76)—had not been adequate. James E. Wood (D.C.), for the Public Affairs Committee, said a research of the materials had not revealed a violation of the First Amendment. Markham spoke vigorously to insist that his concern was not being heard. Carl Overton (Ark.) made a point of personal privilege, objecting to the charges by Markham. Confusion resulted from several persons from the floor seeking recognition by the Chair. Time for miscellaneous business having expired, Chairman Puckett moved that further consideration come after the scheduled sermon. The motion passed.

132. Following the singing of "Lead on, O King Eternal," Chairman Puckett, at the request of the Chair, introduced Harold A. Carter (Md.), pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church in Baltimore, to preach on the subject, "Magnificent Obsession."

133. President Weber resumed the chair and called for the presentation of remaining business matters. Chairman Tampling, for the Committee on Resolutions, explained that Resolution No. 4 on "Abortion" gathered up the concerns of several resolutions of related nature. Jack U. Harwell (Ga.) moved the previous question re the pending amendment. It passed. The motion to amend lost. The motion to adopt Resolution No. 4 passed (see Items 35, 89, 125).

Resolution No. 4—On Abortion

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have historically held a biblical view of the sanctity of human life, and

WHEREAS, Abortion is a very serious moral and spiritual problem of continuing concern to the American people, and

WHEREAS, Christians have a responsibility to deal with all moral and spiritual issues which affect society, including the problems of abortion, and

WHEREAS, The practice of abortion for selfish non-therapeutic reasons want-only destroys fetal life, dulls our society's moral sensitivity, and leads to a cheapening of all human life, and

WHEREAS, Every decision for an abortion, for whatever reason, must necessarily involve the decision to terminate the life of an innocent human being,

Therefore be it *Resolved*, that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Norfolk in June, 1976 reaffirm the biblical sacredness and dignity of all human life, including fetal life, and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we call on Southern Baptists and all citizens of the nation to work to change those attitudes and conditions which encourage many people to turn to abortion as a means of birth control, and

Be it further *Resolved*, that in the best interest of our society, we reject any indiscriminate attitude toward abortion, as contrary to the biblical view, and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we also affirm our conviction about the limited role of government in dealing with matters relating to abortion, and support the right of expectant mothers to the full range of medical services and personal counseling for the preservation of life and health, and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we reject, as contrary to Southern Baptist doctrine and tradition, any suggestion that Southern Baptists should become political activists in support of permissive legislation.

134. Paul Craven (S.C.) presented Resolution No. 5 and moved its adoption. James M. Campbell (N.C.) moved to amend the last paragraph to read, "Be it further Resolved, that we affirm our Christian concern that all persons be saved from the penalty and power of sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, whatever their present individual life-style." The motion passed. Richard Lewis (Cal.) moved to amend the last paragraph, changing "affirm" to "reaffirm." The previous question was voted, and the amendment was passed. Resolution No. 5 as amended was adopted.

Resolution No. 5—On Homosexuality

WHEREAS, Homosexuality has become an open life-style for increasing numbers of persons, and

WHEREAS, Attention has been focused on the religious and moral dimensions of homosexuality, and

WHEREAS, It is the task of the Christian community to bring all moral questions and issues into the light of biblical truth.

Now therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, affirm our commitment to the biblical truth regarding the practice of homosexuality and sin.

Be it further *Resolved*, that this Convention, while acknowledging the autonomy of the local church to ordain ministers, urge churches and agencies not to afford the practice of homosexuality any degree of approval through ordination, employment, or other designations of normal life-style,

Be it further *Resolved*, that we reaffirm our Christian concern that all persons be saved from the penalty and power of sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, whatever their present individual life-style.

135. William L. Self (Ga.) presented Resolution No. 6 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 6—On Southern Baptists and the Bicentennial

WHEREAS, July 4, 1976 is the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists constitute a significant segment of the citizenry of this nation, and

WHEREAS, The basic ideas upon which this nation was built and the noble principles by which our democratic institutions were developed are in desperate need of responsible support by those who believe in the separation of church and state rather than an irresponsible manipulation of these institutions to their own advantage by any power hungry elite be it religious, political, economic, or social, and

WHEREAS, The most worthy celebrations of this nation's past and the best hopes for this nation's future are dependent upon the development of sound moral character in the present and avoiding the dangerous extremes of civil religion and the idolatry of the state.

Therefore be it *Resolved*, that this Convention offer prayerful thanksgiving to God for the birth and development of this nation.

Be it further *Resolved*, that we express our gratitude to President Gerald

Ford for being the first president to recognize publicly at our annual meeting the significant role that Baptists have played in the nation's development,

Be it further *Resolved*, that we recommit ourselves to the lofty ideals which formed the foundations of our nation—dignity, freedom, and justice for all—and to the kind of persistent citizen action which translates these ideals into public policy,

Be it finally *Resolved*, that we practice a patriotism worthy of the people of God, proclaiming by both word and deed the biblical truth that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

136. Charles B. Nunn, Jr. (Va.) presented Resolution No. 7 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 7—On Appreciation of the Host City

As Southern Baptists meeting in Norfolk during this Bicentennial year, we pause to express our sincere gratitude for the hospitality shown the messengers to the 119th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have enjoyed the fellowship with Baptists in this beautiful and historic area of Virginia.

Though it is impossible to express appreciation to all persons to whom the Convention is indebted, special gratitude is due Vernon Ray Jenkins, general chairman of local arrangements, Paul D. Moore, Convention coordinator, the Convention arrangements committee and subcommittees, and all other persons of the Norfolk area who have had a part in making our stay pleasant.

We further express appreciation to the employees of the hotels and restaurants; to the city officials, the Police Department, and bus and taxi operators; to the news media which have given exceptional time and space to reporting the work of our Convention and to all others who have helped to make this 1976 Convention possible.

137. Harold Coble (Cal.) presented Resolution No. 8 and moved its adoption. Following discussion from the floor, the motion passed.

Resolution No. 8—On Beveraged Alcohol and Pornography

WHEREAS, Beveraged alcohol and pornography are two dehumanizing and devastatingly destructive problems of our nation as we celebrate our Bicentennial, and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches the worth of each individual, while beveraged alcohol destroys individuals and pornography degrades and corrupts individuals.

Be it therefore *Resolved*, that this 1976 Southern Baptist Convention reaffirm its historic stance of pointing out the corruption and dehumanizing nature of pornography in all of its forms, and

Be it further *Resolved*, that we reaffirm our historic stance of pointing out the deceptive and destructive nature of beveraged alcohol, and

Be it finally *Resolved*, that we ask all of our people to work for corrective laws at all levels to specifically work for legislation that prohibits the advertising of beveraged alcohol and the portrayal of pornography in all public media. Further, that we ask our people to express their opposition to these menacing evils in every possible and appropriate way. Further that we ask our people to personally express their concern for the victims of these evils as we point all peoples to Jesus Christ as "the way, the truth and the life."

139. Frank Minton (Ohio) presented Resolution No. 9 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 9—On The Lord's Day

WHEREAS, The Lord's Day commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be observed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, with a wholesome use of the day, by resting from secular employments with the exceptions of work of necessity and mercy.

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that we encourage supporting and strengthening the observance of the Lord's Day as a day of unique religious experience and significance and keeping alive an awareness of the "first day of the week" as the Lord's Day and the importance of keeping it "as unto the Lord," and (1) to use it as a day of worship, religious instruction, of family culture, and of service to others, and as it strongly contends against the adverse influences that threaten the integrity of this blessed day, and (2) that we make a strong appeal to all of our

churches and people to call our generation back to the proper observance of this fundamental order of Christian faith, that all people may enjoy one day out of seven as a day of rest and worship.

139. Joseph B. Flowers (Va.) presented Resolution No. 10 and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

Resolution No. 10—On Convention Officers

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention has reached this unique Bicentennial year 1976 with significant spiritual attainments, and

WHEREAS, We have witnessed a recognition of global dimensions of a spiritual force for Christ and human good, and

WHEREAS, We have enjoyed the unique leadership of Jaroy Weber, who under God has been Spirit-gifted to lead our Convention in these unprecedented times, and

WHEREAS, The Convention is grateful also for the effective service of M. Hunter Riggins, Jr. (Va.), first vice-president, James Lester Monroe (Fla.), second vice-president, Clifton J. Allen (N.C.), recording secretary, W. Fred Kendall (Tenn.), registration secretary, and Porter Routh (Tenn.), treasurer.

Be it therefore *Resolved*, that this 119th session of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in the city of Norfolk, Virginia express our profound gratitude to our Lord for these able men.

140. Porter Routh (Tenn.) presented to President Weber and Vice-Presidents Hunter Riggins and James Monroe statements of appreciation for their services to the Convention.

141. Chairman Tampling reported on resolutions received by the Committee on Resolutions but not submitted for action by the Convention, as follows:

1. In response to the Maples resolution on a new seminary, attention is called to the fact that Southern Baptist seminaries are currently involved in widening extension ministries to make available seminary education in metropolitan centers. These will be well within reach of most Southern Baptist ministers. Further action was not taken by the committee.

2. In response to the Morrison resolution on papers speaking for themselves, the committee concluded that Baptist papers being state owned, such resolution should be directed by the maker to the state convention.

3. In response to the Duvall resolution dealing with endorsement for establishing a Baptist Book Store in the D.C. area, the maker of the resolution is requested to refer the resolution to the Sunday School Board.

4. In response to the Murphey resolution calling for a week of public Bible reading from the pulpit, the maker of the resolution is requested to refer the resolution to the Sunday School Board.

5. In response to the Petty resolution dealing with assembly and camp legal and insurance involvements, the committee requests that this resolution be referred by the Convention to the Sunday School Board, the Woman's Missionary Union, and the Brotherhood Commission.

6. In response to the Forbes resolution on rock music in Radio-TV Commission programs, and upon hearing from the maker of the resolution and the president of the Radio-TV Commission, the committee recommends that this resolution be referred by the Convention to the Commission.

He moved adoption of the report on these resolutions, and the motion passed.

142. Garnett E. Puckett (Ala.) made a motion requesting the Christian Life Commission to make a study relating to unwholesome television programs. The Chair ruled the motion out of order since it was a matter of new business and introduced too late to be scheduled for consideration.

143. James Newton (Tenn.) supported the motion (see Item 25) he had presented. Following comments by W. Fred Kendall (Tenn.), the motion passed.

144. The motion by Al Hand (Ga.)—see Item 26—was supported by Roy Reynolds (Fla.). W. J. Cumbie (Va.) moved that it be referred to the Executive Committee for study and report in 1977. The motion to refer passed.

145. The Chair ruled out of order the motion by Kent Ryals (Okla.)—see Item 27—in the light of the special study by the “Committee of Seven” and the acceptance of the Committee’s report by the 1975 Convention (see Item 92, pp. 50-51). The body sustained the Chair’s ruling.

146. The Chair ruled out of order the motion by Bryan Robinson (Fla.)—see Item 53—in that the Executive Committee has no authority to instruct an agency of the Convention to revise its program. Comments by Robinson and Foy Valentine (Tenn.) resolved the concern of the motion.

147. Dean Grelling (Cal.) was not present when his motion (see Item 56) was called for consideration. No action was taken.

148. Chairman Puckett referred to the motion by Frederick G. Schlafer (Tenn.)—see Item 106—and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

149. H. A. Markham (Ga.) sought to reintroduce his concern about “MACOS” and the report of the Christian Life Commission (see Item 131). The Chair ruled that he was out of order since he had been heard previously by the body relative to the concern. A motion to adjourn was made and voted on. The Chair ruled that it passed, but the ruling was protested from the floor. The Chair then allowed Markham the privilege of brief comment, which was a further impassioned charge that his concern had not received the proper response. The Chair allowed several further comments from the floor. A question was raised as to whether the report of the Christian Life Commission had been adopted (see Item 114). A motion was made to adopt the report of the Christian Life Commission. The previous question was voted. The motion to adopt the report passed.

150. Charles Jolly (N.J.) led the Convention in prayer to conclude the morning session.

Thursday Afternoon, June 17

151. Presession music was presented by a group of evangelistic singers, including the following: Ronnie Bowlus (Fla.); Bill Sky-Eagle (Tex.); Jimmy Hodges (Fla.); Bettilu Turney (Tenn.); Leon Westerhouse (Ala.); Connie and Allison Ware (Tex.); Beth Lanham (Tenn.); Andrew Culverwell (Ga.); Daryl Randall (Tenn.); Joy Godwin (Ala.); Lonnie Parsons (Tex.); Kenneth Bennett (N.M.); Jean Hiott (S.C.); Felix Snipes (Ga.). Lowell Leistner (Fla.) then led the Convention in singing “At Calvary.”

152. Vice-president Monroe presented H. Edwin Young (S.C.) to speak on the subject, “The Church and a Clean America.”

153. W. Gordon Hobgood, Jr. (Tex.), chairman of the Annuity Board, was recognized to present the report of the Board. He moved that the report be adopted and then presented Darold H. Morgan, president of the Board, to speak to the report. He called attention to anticipated necessary increases in the costs of the several retirement and insurance plans and dealt with other aspects of the Board’s ministry. The motion passed to adopt the report.

154. Arthur C. Borden, Jr., secretary for church relations of the

American Bible Society, was welcomed by Vice-president Monroe to speak to the Convention.

155. Paul M. Stevens (Tex.), president of the Radio and Television Commission, presented the report of the Commission and moved its adoption. He spoke to the report, calling attention especially to the development of programs with interest for young people, clean but popular in appeal, noting particularly the spiritual impact of "Power Line." A question was raised by Jim Lafferty (Tex.), to which Stevens responded. Comments were made by Freddie Wilson (Miss.). The report was adopted.

156. A. R. Fagan (Tenn.), executive director of the Stewardship Commission, was recognized for the report of the Commission. Lyle Garbow (Okla.), chairman of the Commission, moved that the report be adopted, and the motion passed. Fagan commented on the report and then moved adoption of a resolution relative to developing a plan aimed at adequate support for the Missions Challenge undertaking of Southern Baptists. The motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS ON MISSIONS CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, The Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board have projected Bold Mission challenges through the years to 2000 A.D., and

WHEREAS, The National Seminar on Support of Missions made in-depth findings and recommendations for Bold Mission support in Baptist life, and

WHEREAS, The Missions Challenge Committee, basing its detailed study, stated: "Southern Baptist giving according to current projections will not fund projected needs based upon current strategies without significant alterations in the proportion of allocations at the individual, church, state, and Convention levels."

In anticipation of a joint endeavor encompassing all of Baptist life that shall not only change our vision of boldness and challenge our understanding of expectancy, but also anticipate an adjustment in life-style in individuals, churches, and conventions, which would be sufficient to sustain our Bold Mission advance called for in our Lord's commission and by the staggering spiritual and physical needs of our world,

I therefore move that, in order to plan full implementation and thrust for the missions challenge being undertaken by Southern Baptists, which involves the Stewardship Commission because of its program assignment and because of the request that the Stewardship Commission work with the state conventions to develop "bold promotional programs" designed to reach the objective, a task force comprised of local church leaders, both ministers and laypersons, state executive secretaries and other state staff, Woman's Missionary Union personnel, Southern Baptist Convention agency leaders, and members of the Executive Committee be appointed by the executive director of the Stewardship Commission, after full consultation, to assist in developing "aggressive, sacrificial, and bold promotional programs indispensable to this undertaking."

157. J. Harold Stephens (Ohio) presented the report of the Committee on Denominational Calendar, noting needed corrections, and moved its adoption. The motion passed.

158. Herman E. Jacobs (Tenn.) presented the report of the American Baptist Theological Seminary Commission and moved its adoption. He gave encouraging information about the Seminary. The report was adopted.

159. Clifton J. Allen (N.C.) requested that the recording secretary be authorized, by common consent, to incorporate in the Proceedings, in addition to the matters printed in abbreviated form in the daily *Bulletin*, the record of the other essential matters which were a part of the program and order of business, making necessary changes to

insure clarity, accuracy, and consistent form, and that these Proceedings thus corrected become the official record of the actions of the Convention. Consent was given.

160. William J. Reynolds, music director, presented Otis and Debbie Stroup (Md.) for special music. Debbie Stroup sang "The Rainbow," accompanied by her husband.

161. Vice-president Monroe presented Chester E. Swor (Miss.) to speak on the subject, "Let the Church Stand Up with a Clear Voice to Its Youth."

162. Laverne Inzer (Nev.) led the Convention in prayer to conclude the afternoon session.

Thursday Evening, June 17

163. A special pre-session feature, a historical drama, "Stearns and Company," was presented by the Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, directed by Joe Carrell.

164. William J. Reynolds led the Convention in singing "When We All Get to Heaven."

165. President Weber introduced the program for the evening session and then presented Walter B. Shurden (Tenn.) to speak on the subject, "The Church and Personal Integrity."

166. Carolyn Weatherford (Ala.), executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and Glendon McCullough (Tenn.), executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, were recognized for a joint presentation of the work of the two agencies. McCullough moved the adoption of the report of the Brotherhood Commission, and it passed. Weatherford moved the adoption of the report of Woman's Missionary Union, and it passed. They were assisted in the presentation by Ken Medema, Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, P. A. Stevens, Baker James Cauthen, Arthur B. Rutledge, John Walsh, A. Clark Scanlon, Beverly Hammock, and Dotson M. Nelson, Jr. The thrust of the presentation was on "Forces for Missions Advance" as the major objective of the two agencies.

167. President Weber called to the platform officers of the Convention for the coming year and presented them to the Convention: James L. Sullivan (Tenn.), president, and Mrs. Sullivan; Dotson M. Nelson, Jr. (Ala.), first vice-president; Mrs. Carl E. Bates (N.C.), second vice-president, and Carl E. Bates; Clifton J. Allen (N.C.), recording secretary, and Mrs. Allen; W. Fred Kendall (Tenn.), registration secretary, and Mrs. Kendall; Porter Routh (Tenn.), treasurer, and Mrs. Routh.

168. Tommy Jones (Ga.), president of the Home Mission Board, was recognized to present the report of the Board. He moved adoption of the report, and the motion passed. A feature, "Missions USA," and an address by Arthur B. Rutledge, executive director of the Board, interpreted the work of the Board and particularly the Bold Mission Thrust being projected for the years immediately ahead and the plans being developed for the last quarter of the century. Attention was called by Jones to the approaching retirement of Executive Director Rutledge at the end of this year, and a plaque was presented to him and Mrs. Rutledge in appreciation of his service to the Board and to Southern Baptists.

169. The Centurymen sang "I Thank God."

170. President Weber presented Carl E. Bates (N.C.) for the closing address, "The March Goes On," a challenge to Southern Baptists to go forward in the work of Christ.

171. W. O. Vaught (Ark.) was recognized to speak about the Liberty Bell, made available by the State of Mississippi and brought to the Convention as a symbol of freedom, the heritage of our nation, and a reminder to Baptists of their freedom in Christ and to their commitment to religious liberty. The Liberty Bell was rung, while the messengers stood with applause and gratitude for their blessing and their mission.

172. President Weber expressed appreciation to the Convention for loyal support during the two years of his presidency and his confident hope for the future through the involvement of Baptists in service to Christ. He presented the gavel to President James L. Sullivan, who responded with appropriate remarks as to his commitment and purpose in serving the Convention. President Sullivan led the Convention in prayer to conclude the One Hundredth Nineteenth Session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION REGISTRATION

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, JUNE 15-17, 1976

Alabama	1,289
Alaska	2
Arizona	44
Arkansas	412
California	136
Colorado	46
Connecticut	12
Delaware	19
D. C.	86
Florida	936
Georgia	1,361
Hawaii	15
Idaho	1
Illinois	244
Indiana	161
Iowa	6
Kansas	66
Kentucky	944
Louisiana	533
Maryland	411
Massachusetts	17
Michigan	70
Minnesota	3
Mississippi	792
Missouri	562
Montana	7
Nebraska	11
Nevada	8
New Hampshire	3
New Jersey	31
New Mexico	75
New York	62
North Carolina	2,429
North Dakota	5
Ohio	294
Oklahoma	458
Oregon	9
Pennsylvania	65
Rhode Island	5
South Carolina	1,289
South Dakota	15
Tennessee	1,293
Texas	1,128
Utah	6
Virginia	3,172
Washington	9
West Virginia	73
Wisconsin	15
Puerto Rico	1
Miscellaneous	7
Total	18,637