

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION MINISTRY REPORTS COLLECTION

AR 742



Southern Baptist agency executives and Convention officers, ca. 1946

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Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee. Ministry Reports Collection, 1949-

Date Span: 1949 – 2015

Abstract: Program and budget information from the various entities related to the Southern Baptist Convention. The reports include financial and budget request information and program information and goals. Reports on capital projects and other financial data are included in some printed reports. This material is prepared for the Program and Budget Subcommittee of the Executive Committee and the full Executive Committee. The name of the report was changed from Program Budget and Financial Data reports to Southern Baptist Convention Ministry Reports in 1999.

Size: 5 linear ft. (11 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 742

Historical Note:

The Business and Financial Plan of the Southern Baptist Convention is actually a part of the Convention's constitution and bylaws. It regulates and directs all financial matters involving the Convention as a body and determines courses of procedure where new or additional agency or Convention projects are proposed. In general, it is the Convention's "law" regarding all business procedures.

The first recorded mention of a Business and Financial Plan is found in the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention for 1937, where, on page 43, the Convention received from the Executive Committee the following recommendation: "That the Executive Committee of this Convention be instructed to formulate plans and policies looking toward the prevention in the future of the incurring of debts either by this Convention or its agencies."

This recommendation was adopted by the body, and, in its session the following year, 1938, the report of the Executive Committee set forth the Business and Financial Plan in its original form. This recommendation was adopted by the Convention, and, in the Convention *Annual* for 1939, the Business and Financial Plan of the Convention appeared for the first time as a part of the body's constitution.

Initially, the Business and Financial Plan was a child of the great depression. Several years

were spent trying to pay off huge debts of the Convention. The leadership of the Convention realized the necessity of preventing, if possible, a recurrence of debt. The wisdom of bringing all financial and business matters under control of the Convention was seen, and the outcome was the section of the Convention's constitution under which it now operates its business and financial affairs.

During the years since its adoption, a few minor changes have been made. But the plan is largely in its original form. Items covered in this section of the constitution include principles governing the budget of the Convention; budgets of the entities; responsibility for arriving at budgets to be recommended to the Convention for adoption; limitations of authority of any entity to borrow money; distribution of Cooperative Program receipts; limitations upon special financial campaigns by any entity; regulations concerning trust funds, special gifts and annuities, capital investments, contingent reserve funds for individual entities, methods of making audits and financial reports; and regulations concerning the initiating of new enterprises.

These reports were prepared for the Executive Committee to review as they made budget recommendations to the Convention. The name of the Program Budget and Financial Data report was changed in 1999 to Ministry Reports.

Scope and Content Note

The Southern Baptist Convention Ministry Reports contain a wealth of financial data and statistical information on SBC entities. Included is information on budgets, income, expenditures, capital requests, and other monetary information. In 1999, the reports began to include more information related to ministries and special projects of SBC entities. For instance, the seminaries provided extensive information on student enrollment and the various programs available to seminary students.

The Ministry reports usually include a President's report, a review of program goals and accomplishments, and ministry assignments with entities' efforts to perform those ministries during the past year. The reports are compiled, edited, and made available by the Executive Committee staff.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order.

Provenance

Donated by Executive Committee, SBC, annually.

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee. Ministry Reports Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee.
Southern Baptist Convention. Finance
Southern Baptist Convention. Program Budget and Financial Data.
Southern Baptist Convention. Cooperative Program.
Baptists – Finances
Baptists – Missions

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention *Annuals*
Southern Baptist Convention *Book of Reports*
Southern Baptist Convention. Program Planning and Administrative Files. AR 627. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

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