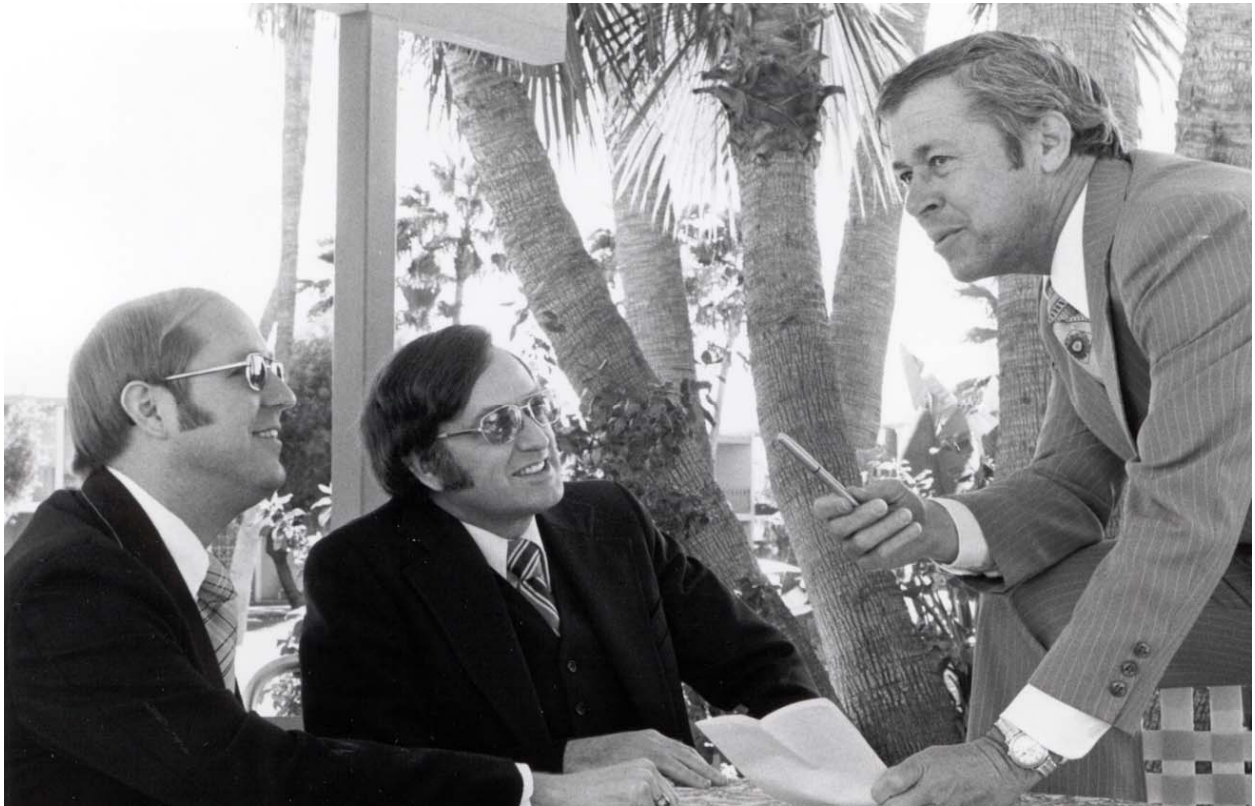


SOUTHERN BAPTIST PRESS ASSOCIATION

AR 785



Southern Baptist Press Association Officers, 1978 (L-R Bob Terry, Al Shackelford, John Roberts)

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
1996
Prepared by Howard Gallimore

Updated September, 2012

Southern Baptist Press Association

AR 785

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Press Association

Date Span: 1926 – 1994

Abstract: The official files of the Southern Baptist Press Association. The collection contains annuals, committee reports, constitution/guidelines, correspondence, membership lists, and the official minutes of the meetings of the association.

Size: 2.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 785

Historical Sketch

E. E. Folk, editor of the Baptist and Reflector (Tennessee), called for an organizational meeting of Baptist state paper editors for November 21, 1895, in Atlanta, Georgia, in conjunction with a call for the organization meeting for a “Southern” Baptist Young People’s Union. J. B. Cranfill of the Texas Baptist Standard (Texas), and perhaps other editors in the previous decade, had envisioned organizing state paper editors. The result of the meeting was the formation of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Uppermost in the reasoning by the Baptist editors for such a meeting was the desire for a spirit of fraternity. Reconstruction, which had taken a heavy toll on Southern Baptist energies and resources, effectively came to an end May 8 – 12, 1879, at the convention meeting in Atlanta. Finally Baptist editors had been experiencing a period of growth in publishing efforts.

Fifteen editors, including Folk, Cranfill, T. P. Bell, J. M. Frost, and I. J. Van Ness, the latter three who would have significant leadership roles in the Baptist Sunday School Board, formed the Southern Baptist Editorial Association. In the announcement of the proceedings in the Baptist and Reflector, Folk changed the name to Southern Baptist Press Association.

Opposition to the name and category of members to be included emerged early in the association's existence. Apparently these differences, which were debated through the pages of several Baptist state papers, were settled amicably and the association prospered.

Many Baptist state paper editors viewed the election of president Morris Chapman, the conservative candidate, over Dan Vestal, the moderate candidate, at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist

Convention in New Orleans, June 12 –14, 1990, as a take-over of the national denomination. Subsequently, when Al Shackleford and Dan Martin were fired from their positions with the Baptist Press, the state paper editors organized the Associated Baptist Press. The new organization that was chartered by the state of Tennessee began functioning as a “free news service.”

The association did change its name from Southern Baptist Press Association to Association of State Baptist Papers.

Scope and Content

The Southern Baptist Press Association records is a collection of annuals, committee reports, constitution/guidelines, correspondence, membership lists, and official minutes of meetings. The majority of the materials are from 1972 through 1994, although minutes date back to 1926. The bulk of material is a result of an agreement with the association for the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives to become the official repository of its records.

Some materials relative to the writing of the history and the dismissal of Alvin Shackleford and Dan Martin are included. Early organizational statements, purpose, and by-laws of Associated Baptist Press are also included. The collection also contains a few letters from Paul Pressler. The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. Additions to the collection are anticipated.

Access to the collection is given to students, scholars, and researchers.

Reference

Junker, C. William. Contending for the Right to Know: A History of the Southern Baptist Press Association 1895, 1995. Franklin, TN: Providence house publishers, 1996.

Arrangement

Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title

Provenance

Agreement by association for Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives to be official repository of its records

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Press Association, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Shackleford, Alvin C.

Bymer, Jack E.

Pressler, Paul

Martin, Dan

Southern Baptist Press Association – History

Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist Press
Southern Baptist Convention – History
Associated Baptist Press
Association of State Baptist Papers
Baptist, Press
Church controversies
Journalism, Religious
Baptist – Newspapers – History

Related Materials

A full history of the first one hundred years of Southern Baptist Press Association is contained in a published work by C. William Junker, Contending for the Right to Know: A History of the Southern Baptist Press Association, 1895, 1995, authorized by the Association of State Baptist Papers.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Annual Meeting, 1972
- 1.2 Annual Meeting, 1974
- 1.3 Annual Meeting, 1977
- 1.4 Annual Meeting, 1978
- 1.5 Annual Meeting, 1979
- 1.6 Annual Meeting, 1981
- 1.7 Annual Meeting, 1982
- 1.8 Annual Meeting, 1983
- 1.9 Annual Meeting, 1984
- 1.10 Annual Meeting, 1985
- 1.11 Annual Meeting, 1986
- 1.12 Annual Meeting, 1987
- 1.13 Annual Meeting, 1988
- 1.14 Annual Meeting, 1989
- 1.15 Annual Meeting, 1990
- 1.16 Annual Meeting, 1991
- 1.17 Annual Meeting, 1992
- 1.18 Annual Meeting, 1993
- 1.19 Annual Meeting, 1994
- 1.20 Annuals, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 – 1979, 1979 – 1980
- 1.21 Associated Baptist Press – By-Laws/Charter/Statement of Mission
- 1.22 Associated Baptist Press – History
- 1.23 Baptist Press – History
- 1.24 Baptist Press – Releases
- 1.25 Biblical Recorder, July 21, 1990
- 1.26 Committee Reports, 1983 – 1985
- 1.27 Correspondence – Bymer, Jack E.
- 1.28 Correspondence – Floyd, Ronnie

- 1.29 Correspondence – McCullough, Michael B.
- 1.30 Correspondence – McGregor, Donald T.
- 1.31 Correspondence – Miller, Eldridge
- 1.32 Correspondence – Puckett, R. G.
- 1.33 Correspondence – Pressler, Paul
- 1.34 Correspondence – Rodgers, J. Neal
- 1.35 Correspondence – Shakleford, Alvin
- 1.36 Correspondence – Terry, Bobby S.
- 1.37 Correspondence, 1973 – 1974
- 1.38 Correspondence, 1983
- 1.39 Correspondence, 1984
- 1.40 Correspondence – Liz Roberts Associates, 1984
- 1.41 Correspondence, 1986
- 1.42 Correspondence, 1987 (A)
- 1.43 Correspondence, 1987 (B)
- 1.44 Correspondence, 1989
- 1.45 Constitution/Guidelines
- 1.46 Dues, 1986
- 1.47 Executive Directors/Editors Meeting, February, 1979
- 1.48 Financial Statements, 1973, 1979, 1983
- 1.49 History
- 1.50 Luncheon Meeting, September, 1984 – Dallas, Texas
- 1.51 Membership
- 1.52 Membership, 1974
- 1.53 Membership, 1983
- 1.54 Membership – Dues
- 1.55 Minutes, 1926 – 1941
- 1.56 Minutes, 1942 – 1957
- 1.57 Minutes, 1957
- 1.58 Minutes, 1958 – 1965

Box 2

- 2.1 Minutes, 1966 – 1969
- 2.2 Minutes, 1970 – 1977
- 2.3 Minutes, 1978 – 1982
- 2.4 Minutes, 1983
- 2.5 Minutes, 1985
- 2.6 Pamphlet – “The Church and the Public Schools”
- 2.7 Papers Presented
- 2.8 Papers Presented, 1962 – 1964
- 2.9 Papers Presented, 1975
- 2.10 Papers Presented, 1983 – 1984
- 2.11 Papers Presented, 1985
- 2.12 Papers Presented, 1986
- 2.13 Papers Presented, 1987
- 2.14 Postal Coalition, 1984

- 2.15 Programs, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1973
- 2.16 Questionnaire – P.H.
- 2.17 Report – Women Percentages
- 2.18 Resolutions, 1986
- 2.19 Survey, 1962, 1964, 1966
- 2.20 Survey, 1971, 1972
- 2.21 Survey, 1973
- 2.22 Survey, 1974
- 2.23 Survey, 1976
- 2.24 Survey, 1983
- 2.25 Survey, 1984
- 2.26 Survey, 1985
- 2.27 Survey, 1989
- 2.28 The Voice of Southern Baptists
- 2.29 Winter Meeting, February 15 –17, 1960