

# **JIM HENRY PAPERS**

**AR 806**



**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives**

**Updated April, 2012**

# **Jim Henry Papers**

## **AR 806**

### **Summary**

Main Entry: Jim Henry Papers

Date Span: 1994 – 1996

Abstract: Jim Henry was President of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1994 to 1996, and his papers contain correspondence during that time period. Much of the correspondence is from friends and constituents congratulating him on his election, expressing hope that he would promote reconciliation in the Convention, and giving opinions on major issues confronting the Convention. The collection also includes his calendar, articles, programs, texts of speeches, and statements on various topics.

Size: 5.5 linear ft. (11 boxes)

Collection #: AR 806

### **Biographical Sketch**

Jim Henry was born in Nashville, Tennessee, October 1, 1937. Henry received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown College (Kentucky) and the Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained in November, 1960 at Dalewood Baptist Church in Nashville. He served as pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church in Melvin, Alabama, Two Rivers Church in Nashville, and Hollywood Church in Sledge, Mississippi, prior to becoming pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Florida, in 1977. Henry and his wife, Jeannette, have three children.

In June, 1994, Henry was elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention. The following year, he was elected for a second term. During his two terms, a Program and Structure Study Committee completed its work and recommended a major administrative reorganization of the Convention. That reorganization was voted upon at successive meetings in 1996 and 1997 and was subsequently implemented. Other significant issues confronting the Convention during Henry's terms included resolutions repenting of the Convention's support for slavery from the 1840s to the 1860s and calling for racial reconciliation; condemning the Walt Disney Company for moving away from "family values;" and opposing the nomination of Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States on the basis of his support for abortion rights and for the distribution of contraceptive devices in public schools.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection consists primarily of correspondence dating from 1994 to 1996 (4.5 lin. ft.). Much of the correspondence came from friends and constituents congratulating Henry on his election, expressing hope that he would succeed in promoting reconciliation in the Convention, and expressing opinions on various sides of the major issues confronting the Convention during his tenure – reorganization, racial reconciliation, the nomination of Henry Foster as Surgeon General,

and the resolution condemning the Walt Disney Corporation. Other issues such as the role of women in the church and a perceived alignment of the Convention with Republican politics were also discussed. A significant minority of Henry's correspondents consisted of other denominational leaders. Their letters document ongoing efforts to solidify the conservative character of the Convention. Other materials in the collection include Henry's calendar, media articles regarding his election, programs of conferences and panels at which he spoke, texts of his speeches before the Convention in 1995 and 1996, and official statements or comments about various topics that were released to the press.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by series and alphabetically or chronologically within each series

### **Provenance**

Donated by Jim Henry, 1996

### **Preferred Citation**

Jim Henry Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Southern Baptist Convention – History – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

United States – Church History – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Controversies – Baptists

Race Relations – Religious Aspects – Baptists

Church and Race Relations

Social Ethics

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995

- 1.1 Ab – Ak
- 1.2 Al – Ay
- 1.3 Ba – Bl
- 1.4 Bo – Bri
- 1.5 Bro – By
- 1.6 Ca – Ci
- 1.7 Cl
- 1.8 Co
- 1.9 Cr – Cy

#### **Box 2**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995 (cont'd)

- 2.1 Da – Di

- 2.2 Do – Dy
- 2.3 E
- 2.4 Fa – Fl
- 2.5 Fo – Fu
- 2.6 Ga – Gl
- 2.7 Go – Gu

**Box 3**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995 (cont'd)

- 3.1 Hac – Han
- 3.2 Har – Haz
- 3.3 He – Hi
- 3.4 Ho
- 3.5 Hu – Hy
- 3.6 I
- 3.7 J
- 3.8 K
- 3.9 La – Le
- 3.10 Li – Ly

**Box 4**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995 (cont'd)

- 4.1 Ma
- 4.2 Mc
- 4.3 Me – Mi
- 4.4 Mo – My
- 4.5 N
- 4.6 O
- 4.7 Pa – Pe
- 4.8 Ph – Pi
- 4.9 Po – Pu
- 4.10 Q

**Box 5**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995 (cont'd)

- 5.1 Ra – Re
- 5.2 Ri – Ru
- 5.3 Sa – Si
- 5.4 Sm – Sp
- 5.5 St – Sy
- 5.6 Ta – Te
- 5.7 Th – Ty
- 5.8 U – V

**Box 6**

Correspondence, June, 1994 – June, 1995 (cont'd)

- 6.1 Wa – We
- 6.2 Wh
- 6.3 Wi
- 6.4 Wo – Wy
- 6.5 Y – Z
- 6.6 Unidentified

**Box 7**

Correspondence, June, 1995 – June, 1996

- 7.1 Anonymous
- 7.2 A
- 7.3 Ba – Bl
- 7.4 Bo – Bu
- 7.5 Ca – Cl
- 7.6 Co – Cu
- 7.7 Da – De
- 7.8 Di – Du
- 7.9 E
- 7.10 F

**Box 8**

Correspondence, June, 1995 – June, 1996 (cont'd)

- 8.1 G
- 8.2 Ha – Hi
- 8.3 Ho – Hy
- 8.4 I – J
- 8.5 K
- 8.6 L
- 8.7 M
- 8.8 N – O

**Box 9**

Correspondence, June, 1995 – June, 1996 (cont'd)

- 9.1 P
- 9.2 Q – R
- 9.3 Sa – Sm
- 9.4 Sn – Sy
- 9.5 T
- 9.6 U – V
- 9.7 Wa – Wh
- 9.8 Wi – Wy
- 9.9 Y – Z

**Box 10**

Calendar

- 10.1 1994 – 1996

Media Articles

- 10.2 January – June, 1994
- 10.3 July – December, 1994
- 10.4 January – May, 1995
- 10.5 June, 1995
- 10.6 July – December, 1995
- 10.7 1996
- 10.8 Interview Questions, 1994 – 1996

**Box 11**

Miscellaneous

- 11.1 1994 – 1995

Legislation

- 11.2 Gambling, 1995

Newsletters

- 11.3 1994 – 1995

Programs

- 11.4 1994 – 1996

Speeches

- 11.5 Executive Committee, September 19, 1994

- 11.6 Miscellaneous, 1995

- 11.7 SBC, 1995 – 1996

Statements

- 11.8 1994 – 1995