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Minutes of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Meeting February 6, 1951

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF SOUTHWESTERN AT MEMPHIS
HELD IN THE DIRECTORS' ROOM
PALMER HALL
February 6, 1951

The regular stated meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern at Memphis was held in the Directors' Room, Palmer Hall, on Tuesday, February 6, 1951, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Sidney W. Farnsworth, and was opened with prayer by Dr. Archie C. Smith.

The roll call showed the following members present:

ALABAMA:	LOUISIANA:	MISSISSIPPI:	TENNESSEE:
George Lang	Alfred C. Glassell	W. H. McAtee	Sidney W. Farnsworth
Archie C. Smith	John S. Land	W. J. Millard	Moore Moore
	B. B. Taylor, Jr.		

Peyton N. Rhodes, ex officio

The Secretary reported that D. H. Edington, of Mobile, Alabama, and W. Stennis Johnson, of McComb, Mississippi, were unable to attend the meeting because of conflicting meetings; that A. K. Burrow, of Memphis, is in Florida; and that Frank A. England, of Greenville, Mississippi, Robert E. Harwell, of Nashville, Tennessee, and W. S. Beasley, of Columbia, Tennessee, were unable to attend the meeting because of hazardous road conditions due to ice and snow.

Miss Erma Reese, Secretary to the President, was invited to sit in the meeting as assistant to the Secretary.

It was moved, seconded, and ordered that the reading for information of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors held on September 12, 1950, be dispensed with, in view of the fact that each member of the Board had received a copy of these minutes.

Upon motion by Dr. Archie C. Smith, seconded by Dr. J. S. Land, the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on November 7 and 30, December 28, 1950, and January 25, 1951, copies of which had been received by each member of the Board, were approved.

The Chairman announced for information the personnel of the House and Finance Committees, which were appointed at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors on September 12, 1950, to serve through the 1951 annual meeting of the Board, as follows:

HOUSE - W. H. McAtee, Chairman; J. S. Land, Archie C. Smith, D. H. Edington, B. B. Taylor, Jr.
FINANCE - Alfred C. Glassell, Chairman; Frank A. England, W. S. Beasley, A. K. Burrow, W. J. Millard, S. W. Farnsworth.

The Chairman also announced the personnel of the Honorary Degrees Committee as follows:

Moore Moore, Chairman; W. J. Millard, P. N. Rhodes, and two faculty members--W. R. Cooper and M. L. MacQueen.

The members of the Board, as well as Dr. Chas. E. Diehl, Dean A. T. Johnson, Mr. David W. Sprunt, Dr. J. L. Price, Dr. Joe O. Embry, and Mr. C. L. Springfield, were invited to have luncheon in the Bell Room of Hugh M. Neely Hall at 12:30 p.m.

The Chairman stated, in accordance with the action of the Board of Directors at its annual meeting on September 12, 1950, in referring to the Executive Committee the matter of enlarging the membership of the Board of Directors of Southwestern by adding one woman from each of the four cooperating Synods, that a committee, composed of Dr. W. J. Millard, Chairman; Mr. David W. Sprunt, Assistant to the President in charge of the Office of Development, and Dr. L. F. Vinney, Professor of Bible, had been appointed and had given this matter considerable study, as evidenced by the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of November 7, 1950, and January 25, 1951. At the request of the Board members the Chairman invited Mr. Sprunt into the meeting for a further consideration and discussion of this matter. 160

The Committee, through its Chairman, Dr. Millard, presented the following suggestions for organizing the Women of the Church in relation to Southwestern:

I. Name and personnel of organizations

- A. The Southwestern Council of Church Women
composed of one representative from each of the four Synodicals
- B. The Alabama (etc.) Synodical Council of Southwestern Representatives
composed of the Synodical representative and one representative from each Presbyterial
- C. The Memphis (etc.) Presbyterial Council of Southwestern Representatives
composed of the Presbyterial representatives and one representative from each local church

II. Method of selection

- A. Nomination by the Synodicals to Synods
- B. Election by the respective Synodicals, Presbyterials, and local Women of the Church ... to staggered terms of office

III. Functions

- A. Advisory with respect to the Southwestern Board of Directors
- B. Executive: as personal representatives of the College to their groups for purposes such as:
recruiting of able students
encouraging financial support of the College
general public relations

IV. Meetings

- A. The four Synodical representatives to meet at Southwestern at least annually at the expense of the College. A representative of the Board to meet with this group in liaison capacity
- B. Annual meeting of the Synodical representatives with the Presbyterial representatives in the bounds of each Synod.

These suggestions provoked free discussion from those present, were very favorably received, and were approved by the Board. Mr. Sprunt was instructed to begin at once working on this plan, and it was suggested that he should begin with the President of each Synodical.

Further, in this connection, upon motion by Dr. Moore Moore, which was duly seconded, the Board unanimously voted to request each of Southwestern's four cooperating Synods (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee) to elect for a four-year term a fifth Director for Southwestern in the person of an outstanding woman from each Synod, the membership of the Board thus to be increased from sixteen to twenty members when the four Synods agree to this plan. The Secretary was directed to send a copy of this action to the Stated Clerk and the Chairman of the Committee on Educational Institutions of each Synod for presentation at the annual meetings of the Synods in 1951.

The Committee on Honorary Degrees recommended that the following degrees be conferred by Southwestern at Memphis at the commencement exercises on Tuesday, June 5, 1951:

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

The Reverend Edward M. Nesbitt, First Presbyterian Church, Somerville, Tennessee
The Reverend Roland Sims, First Presbyterian Church, Anniston, Alabama

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Enoch Brown, President and General Manager, Memphis Publishing Company, Memphis

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES

Walter D. Bellingrath, Mobile, Alabama
Mrs. H. D. Haberyan, Shreveport, Louisiana

DOCTOR OF LAWS

Boylston Green, Vice-Chancellor, The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

The Committee also recommended that the Executive Committee be authorized and empowered to confer another honorary degree on June 5, 1951, if it should seem advisable in connection with the commencement speaker.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the report of the Committee on Honorary Degrees was unanimously adopted.

President Rhodes made an oral report on the work of the College, as well as on enrollment and financial trends in the present national emergency, on what is being done to endeavor to secure an ROTC unit for Southwestern (see minutes of Executive Committee meeting for 1/25/51, page 2), and other activities of the College. He also reported on the meeting which was held at Southwestern on January 30, 1951, of the Chairman of Stewardship Committees (or General Council) and of Educational Committees, together with the Moderators of the cooperating Synods. Copies of the following action taken by this group of Synods' representatives were given to each Board member:

"The representatives of the Synods assembled by the authority of the Synods are in unanimous agreement that the material needs of Southwestern are real and urgent, and that it is highly necessary for the Synods and the City of Memphis to meet these needs. Therefore, we recommend to the Board of Directors of Southwestern and to each of the five supporting groups as follows:

"(1) That the City of Memphis and the Synod of Tennessee be encouraged to seek to discharge their responsibility as soon as the way is clear;

"(2) That the Synods of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi be earnestly requested, at the next regular meeting of each Synod, to set apart the church year beginning in 1953 for a simultaneous campaign for Southwestern;

"(3) That a total goal of \$1,500,000 be sought, which amount includes \$250,000 for scholarships for worthy and needy students, \$50,000 for use for each of the supporting groups."

Upon motion by Dr. Moore, which was seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Board reaffirmed its interest in and approval of Southwestern's efforts to secure the establishment of an ROTC unit or other type of military training unit. (See minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors for February 3, 1942, page 2.)

The meeting recessed at 12:30 p.m. for luncheon, after which the House and Finance Committees met, and the meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m., with prayer by Dr. Millard.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Glassell, presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

Due to the diminishing male student enrollment because of the military situation, Southwestern is now facing a financial deficit of \$35,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951. This fact stands in spite of every possible economy which has been practiced by the administration.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends the following procedure as a solution to this distressing condition:

1. That each cooperating Synod send to Southwestern its full benevolent asking, thereby enabling the College to close the year without a deficit;

2. That each church make every effort to direct the ablest and best qualified students to Southwestern for the college year beginning in September, 1951, thereby producing the finest Christian leadership for the Church and Society, and incidentally helping the financial condition of the College;

3. That this information be widely disseminated throughout the Synods.

(Signed) A. C. Glassell

W. J. Millard

S. W. Farnsworth

Mr. Alfred C. Glassell moved that each Director write a personal letter at once to the Pastor and also to the Clerk of the Session of each church in his Presbytery, in which would be enclosed a copy of the Finance Committee's report made at this meeting of the Board, explaining that Southwestern should have an enrollment of at least 600 students in order to operate most efficiently, but

that due to the present national emergency its student body for the current session will not average over 500, and that it is anticipated that the further reduction in enrollment will be even more drastic for the session of 1951-52; that unless the student enrollment is increased considerably for the session of 1951-52, Southwestern will face an even greater financial deficit; and stating in addition the amounts of Synods' approved askings for Southwestern. This motion was duly seconded and unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors.

The members of the Board present at this meeting made assignments of Presbyteries for the various Board members to write to as follows:

ALABAMA - Birmingham Presbytery - Archie C. Smith
East Alabama Presbytery - Archie C. Smith agreed to see that
letters are written
Mobile Presbytery - D. H. Edington
North Alabama Presbytery - Archie C. Smith
Tuscaloosa Presbytery - George Lang

LOUISIANA - Louisiana Presbytery - B. B. Taylor, Jr.
New Orleans Presbytery - J. S. Land
Red River Presbytery - A. C. Glassell

MISSISSIPPI - Central Mississippi Presbytery - Frank A. England
East Mississippi Presbytery - Robert F. Sloop, pastor of
First Presbyterian Church,
Starkville, Mississippi
Meridian Presbytery - W. Stennis Johnson
Mississippi Presbytery - W. H. McAtee
North Mississippi Presbytery - W. J. Millard


TENNESSEE - Columbia Presbytery - W. S. Beasley
Memphis Presbytery - S. W. Farnsworth and Moore Moore
Nashville Presbytery - Robert E. Harwell

The Chairman of the House Committee, Mr. McAtee, presented the following interim report, which was adopted:

A review of the last annual report of this Committee does not reveal the need of any amendments thereto. Hence no additional report is made at this time.

(Signed) W. H. McAtee
Archie C. Smith
John S. Land
B. B. Taylor, Jr.

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved, and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m., with prayer by Mr. McAtee.


Secretary