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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting March 02, 1921

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN UNIVERSITY
HELD IN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

MARCH 2d, 1921

The Board of Directors of Southwestern Presbyterian University met in the First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, at nine o'clock A. M., March 2d, 1921. The following members were present:

Tennessee- Chas. E. Diehl, President

B. A. Patch, Secretary
James I. Vance

Alabama- George Lang

Mississippi- J. D. Duncan
Jos. Rennie

Louisiana- W. McF. Alexander
W. T. Hardie
H. M. McLain

By special invitation Rev. Henry H. Sweets, D. D., Rev. M. E. Melvin, D. D., Rev. S. W. McGill, respectively, the Executive Secretary, the Field Secretary, and the Assistant Field Secretary of the General Assembly's Committee on Christian Education were also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by President Chas. E. Diehl.

The minutes of the Board of Directors from January 22d, 1920, to date were read, corrected and approved.

The President stated the purpose of the meeting, which was: to reconsider the action taken at the Memphis meeting in endeavoring to assist Dr. M. E. Melvin in his emergency and aid him in establishing a credit for projecting the campaign in the cities, and also to consider further the matter of financing the budget of \$51,000 for 1921.

Upon motion of Dr. Alexander, the following resolution was un-animously adopted:

Resolved that the Board of Directors hereby rescinds the action taken February 10th, 1921, authorizing the custodians of the securities of the University to deposit certain securities not exceeding in value \$30,000 with a bank in Memphis, and directs said custodians to secure any securities so deposited and hold them for the University.

The financing of the budget for the year 1921 was again discussed, and the privileges of the floor were granted to Drs. Henry H. Sweets and M. E. Melvin and Rev. S. W. McGill, all of whom offered to assist the Board in any way possible in this crisis. The two alternatives before the Board were clearly realized: the necessity of maintaining the institution as a standard college, which would require as a minimum the adopted budget of \$51,000, or of closing

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down the institution entirely. It was realized that to attempt to run as a second grade institution would be most precarious, both academically and financially. It would be impossible to retain the faculty or to secure students. Little would be received from tuition fees, and the expected income would, even with the smallest sort of institution, be wholly inadequate to provide for the work. Dr. Melvin and Mr. McGill expressed the belief that, in view of the general hope that the institution had a large future if allowed to remove, in view of the general conviction that a great loss to the cause of education in the South would be sustained if the doors of the institution were closed on what might be the threshold of its greatest opportunity, they could raise an emergency fund, together with the assistance of the churches to cover the probable deficit. Upon these conditions the budget of \$51,000 was confirmed.

Upon motion of Dr. Vance the President was directed to prepare a strong statement of the critical condition of the university at this time, to be signed by every member of the Board present and by all others unless they object, and Dr. Sweets was requested to send out this statement at once, enclosing a letter of his own emphasizing the urgency of the situation, to the pastors, the clerks of sessions, the treasurers, and the presidents of the Woman's Auxiliaries in every church in the four co-operating Synods, appealing to them to put the university on the weekly budgets of their churches for a full apportionment in this hour of the university's great need. Dr. Sweets agreed to have these letters multigraphed and sent out immediately from his office, at no expense to the Board except that of postage and stationery.

Upon motion of Dr. Alexander the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon Rev. John Calvin Tate, Clarksville, Tennessee.

Upon recommendation of the Faculty the Board granted the following degrees in course:

BACHELOR OF ARTS

✓ William Crowe, Jr.....St. Louis, Missouri.
 William Walton Fulcher.....Clarksville, Tennessee.
 William Harvey McAtee.....Bolatusha, Mississippi.
 ✓ Robert Louis McReynolds.....Clarksville, Tennessee.
 James Lawrence Mecklin.....Ackerman, Mississippi.
 Henry Siebert Morrow.....Clarksville, Tennessee.
 ✓ Alonzo Leslie Parrott.....Clarksville, Tennessee.
 Margaret Elwyn Trahern.....Clarksville, Tennessee.

The minutes of this meeting were read and approved, and the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Dr. Rennie.

B. A. Patch,
Secretary.