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June 18, 2003

Posted 6/18/03

Jack Graham re-elected president of SBC without opposition

PHOENIX—Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, was re-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 17 without opposition.

Graham won by one vote but it was the only vote that counted. With no other nominees, Registration Secretary James Wells was instructed to cast the vote on behalf of the messengers, giving Graham the traditional second term as leader of the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination. At the time of the election, 6,830 messengers had registered during the first day of the annual meeting.

Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., nominated Graham, calling him an “energetic, focused soul-winner.” He said Graham led the SBC “with certainty and conviction” during 12 months “loaded” with controversy.

Earlier in the day, during his president's address, Graham urged Southern Baptists to penetrate a “decaying” culture with the gospel rather than retreat into an ineffective subculture.

Graham, whose church is in suburban Dallas, is the 12th person to serve as SBC president since the so-called “conservative resurgence” began in 1979.