

# The CONVENTION

a novel about defining moments

by Bob N. Wallace

*Skullduggery and intrigue are rampant behind the scenes at the annual convention of a church denomination.*

**But this book is not just about conventions or religion ...**

**It is about people as they attempt to deal with the evil around them and have their *defining moments* together.**

**They must either succumb or overcome.**



**Author Bob N. Wallace has a wide and varied background. He was Convention Manager for a major denomination in the United States and founded The Religious Convention Managers Association of America. He is an ordained minister and holds a doctorate in theology. He has been a businessman and is a retired Navy chaplain. He continues to have an active ministry as Pastor of the Community Church in Everglades City, Florida, and enjoys boating on the Gulf of Mexico from his home in Naples.**

*This is the first novel in what will be a trilogy by an imaginative and knowledgeable author. Could what he describes really happen? Are internal politics as prominent in the church as in other walks of life? Sit back and enjoy a tale set in the post-hippie 1970s ... and be prepared to either love or hate or feel sorry for the well-drawn cast of characters as they experience the first, long, and often traumatic, day of The Convention..*

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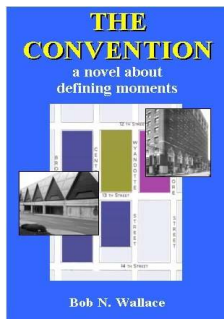
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## A SAMPLE TO WHET YOUR APPETITE ....

### ◆ CHAPTER 1

The phone rang a minute before six o'clock. Bill rolled over to reach the receiver before the second ring. He had not been asleep.

"Yes?"

"Mr. Ellis?" said a wide-awake male voice at the other end of the line.

"This is Ellis," he said softly as he switched on the brass reading lamp, sat up, and swung his bare legs over the side of the bed.

"You are the Convention Manager for the church meeting at Bartle Hall this week?"

"Yes," Bill said cautiously.

"This is Chief Underhill of the Kansas City Police Department. We met in my office yesterday morning at the security briefing for your convention."

"I remember. What can I do for you this early in the morning?"

"I am afraid I have some bad news."

"What's that, Chief?"

"One of your clergymen has been found stabbed to death in a cheap downtown hotel. We think he's one of your people."

"What?"

"Sir, it's a murder. We think he is one of *yours*."

"I can't believe that," Bill said. *This is crazy. This isn't the way things are supposed to happen today. The convention is going to open in just a few hours*, Bill thought, and then asked, "Are you sure he's one of ours?"

"Yes, sir, we're sure."

*He sounds so certain. There must be a mistake. Maybe he has more information than he's giving me.*

"Do you know who it is?"

"Yes, sir. Our people are over there now. They have been checking things out for a couple of hours. I'm calling you

now because we found a registration badge in his room. We are positive it is for your convention this week."

"Tell me more," Bill said, now fully awake.