

## 2021 Resolutions Committee Report

We appreciate the privilege of serving on the 2021 Resolutions Committee. We prayerfully considered resolutions of substance and meaning for the messengers of this Convention. We thoroughly discussed the value and wisdom of the thoughts included in each proposal and we addressed issues that impact our people, our churches, and the Kingdom of Christ.

We present this report to the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention in Columbia, South Carolina, on November 9, 2021.

Disposition of received proposals:

1. *Appreciation*, presented as Resolution 1, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
2. *Unity*, presented as Resolution 2, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
3. *Sexual Abuse Within the Church*, amended and presented as Resolution 3, submitted by the Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee
4. *Religious Liberty*, presented as Resolution 4, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
5. *Abolishing Abortion*, prayerfully considered, submitted by Bradley Starnes
6. *Abolishing Abortion*, presented as Resolution 5, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
7. *Hate Crimes*, amended and presented as Resolution 6, submitted by the Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee
8. *Protecting Women's Sports*, amended and presented as Resolution 7, submitted by the Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee
9. *Bicentennial Celebration of the South Carolina Baptist Convention*, presented as Resolution 8, submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Darren Rood, Chair

Jeremy Beauford

Mark Bishop

David Fallaw

Hayden Jacobs

Jason Sturkie

1 **APPRECIATION**

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WHEREAS, The messengers of the 2021 annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention have again enjoyed the generosity of the staff and members of the historic First Baptist Church of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, First Chronicles 16:35 says, “Save us, God of our salvation; gather us and rescue us from the nations so that we may give thanks to your holy name and rejoice in your praise;” and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists assemble to fellowship, worship, and conduct business as a unified convention of messengers; and

WHEREAS, The 2021 annual meeting theme is *Advance Together*, and every South Carolina Baptist is encouraged to advance Christ’s Kingdom by building relationships inside and beyond the church walls; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, express appreciation to all who worked diligently to create a worshipful and relevant experience for all God’s people; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we express our profound gratitude to the Lord for His continued guidance and blessings throughout our lives and our service.

1 **UNITY**

2

3 WHEREAS, The Scriptures charge the Church to “walk worthy of the calling you have received,  
4 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every  
5 effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1–3); and

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7 WHEREAS, The Scriptures likewise command the Church to “be ye all of one mind, having  
8 compassion one of another, love as brethren, be compassionate and humble” (1 Peter 3:8); and

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10 WHEREAS, Jesus prayed passionately that his followers would be one and may be brought to  
11 complete unity so that the world may believe (John 17:21, 23); and

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13 WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul appealed “that there be no divisions among you, but that you be  
14 united in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10); and

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16 WHEREAS, One of the distinguishing marks of the New Testament believer and the early church  
17 was unifying love one for another (Acts 2:1, 46; John 13:35; 1 John 3:14; Philipians 2:2, 4:2;  
18 Galatians 5:20–21); and

19

20 WHEREAS, The unity in the body of Christ should testify to the unity of the Godhead (The Father,  
21 The Son, and The Spirit); and

22

23 WHEREAS, The Trinity is unified in purpose and essence, as should be mirrored in the church body  
24 (Ephesians 4:4–6); and

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26 WHEREAS, The unity of the church body testifies to the unity of the Gospel message and there is  
27 One unifying Person for salvation (Acts 4:12; John 14:6); and

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29 WHEREAS, We are commanded in Scripture, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your  
30 mouth, but only that which is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may  
31 benefit those who listen” (Ephesians 4:29), and

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33 WHEREAS, We are reminded in Scripture to “Follow peace with all men; lest a root of bitterness  
34 springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:14–16), and

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36 WHEREAS, Civility and public discourse (spoken and printed) appear to be declining among those  
37 of us who claim Jesus Christ as our Savior; and

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39 WHEREAS, There are negative effects that disunity has on our witness for Christ and unity is good  
40 and pleasant for all God’s people (Psalm 131:1); therefore, be it

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42 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
43 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
44 Convention, pursue holiness, act with love, engage others with charity, and consider one another  
45 in how we represent ourselves, our churches, our Convention, and, above all, the Gospel of Jesus  
46 Christ in our speech and conduct at all times and in all places; and be it further

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48 RESOLVED, That we protect the witness of Jesus Christ before a watching world by wise and  
49 gracious use of all forms of communication, whether in verbal speech, written word, or social  
50 media, so that we keep the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace and that others may see Christ  
51 in us creating a desire to know Him personally; and be it finally

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53 RESOLVED, That we call all South Carolina Baptists to practice being “kindly affectionate one to  
54 another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another” (Romans 12:10).

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1 **SEXUAL ABUSE**

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3 WHEREAS, God has created all people in His image, with equal value and dignity (Genesis 1:26–  
4 27); and

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6 WHEREAS, Any harm perpetrated against one of God’s image-bearers is an attack on God Himself  
7 (Genesis 9:6); and

8

9 WHEREAS, God detests all forms of sexual abuse and calls His people to defend abuse victims  
10 (Psalm 82:4), to stand for justice (Psalm 82:3; Proverbs 31:8–9), and to deliver victims of sexual  
11 abuse from the hands of their oppressors (Proverbs 6:17; 24:10–12); and

12

13 WHEREAS, Sexual abuse refers to sexual activity that involves the use of physical force,  
14 manipulation, coercion, or deception; involves the abuse of authority by a perpetrator over a  
15 victim; or takes place with a minor or other person who is presumed legally incapable of consent;  
16 and

17

18 WHEREAS, As a community of believers, we deplore each and every instance of sexual abuse and  
19 repent of and ask forgiveness for failing to be more vigilant to protect those in Southern Baptist  
20 and South Carolina Baptist churches and institutions who have been sexually abused; and

21

22 WHEREAS, We condemn any abuse of power by any leader who has ever sought to protect the  
23 perpetrators of sexual abuse or silence and marginalize the survivors of sexual abuse; and

24

25 WHEREAS, The autonomy of the local church is compatible with the protection of innocents and  
26 should not be used by any church or organization as a reason not to take appropriate actions,  
27 including mandatory reporting, to protect the people it serves, including (but not limited to) the  
28 decision of an organization to remove from fellowship any church that fails to protect the  
29 vulnerable; and

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31 WHEREAS, We affirm that sexual abuse is not only a sin to be disciplined in the context of the  
32 church, but also a crime to be prosecuted in the context of civil government; and

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34 WHEREAS, We affirm that perpetrators of sexual abuse can be forgiven because of the work of  
35 Jesus Christ to redeem and reconcile sinners to God through faith and repentance, and that true  
36 repentance for perpetrating sexual abuse requires an acceptance of the consequences of sin, both  
37 in the context of the civil government and the context of the church; and

38

39 WHEREAS, We affirm that survivors of sexual abuse may by the grace of God forgive their abuser,  
40 but that such forgiveness should not be interpreted to mean that a survivor must have an ongoing

41 relationship with their abuser to be in right fellowship with God or their church, nor be regarded  
42 as a substitute for justice for the crime of sexual abuse; and

43  
44 WHEREAS, We recognize that godly sorrow over the incalculable damage of sexual abuse in a  
45 church or ministry setting should lead us to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10), recognizing that  
46 institutions that tolerate such sexual immorality will be judged by Christ Himself (Revelation  
47 2:18–29); therefore, be it

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49 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
50 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
51 Convention, condemn all forms of sexual abuse and repudiate with a unified voice all sexually  
52 abusive behavior as unquestionably sinful and under the just condemnation of our Holy God; and  
53 be it further

54 RESOLVED, That we lament any and all instances of sexual abuse, particularly in a church setting,  
55 and express our appreciation to all who have brought to light the sexual immorality that has existed  
56 within Southern Baptist churches; and be it further

57  
58 RESOLVED, That we call on ourselves and our network of congregations and institutions to create  
59 a culture where survivors can not only share about their abuse with the assurance of protection but  
60 also receive care while church leaders fulfill their obligation to implement policies and practices  
61 that protect against and confront any form of abuse in the future; and be it further

62  
63 RESOLVED, That we implore sexual abuse survivors to contact civil authorities, to separate from  
64 their abusers, and to seek protection, care, and support from fellow Christians and civil authorities  
65 as they are able; and be it further

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67 RESOLVED, That we call on all persons perpetrating and enabling sexual abuse to repent and to  
68 confess their sin to Jesus Christ and church authorities, and to confess their crimes to civil  
69 authorities; and be it further

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71 RESOLVED, That we implore all persons to act decisively on matters of abuse, to immediately report  
72 allegations of sexual abuse to civil authorities according to the laws of our state, to intervene on  
73 behalf of the abused, to do everything possible to ensure their safety, and to exercise appropriate  
74 church discipline upon abusers; and be it finally

75  
76 RESOLVED, That we urge churches and their leaders to develop partnerships within their  
77 communities to serve the abused, calling on government officials to strengthen laws that maintain  
78 justice and protections for the vulnerable in our society.

1 **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

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3 WHEREAS, God has made the human conscience inviolable (Romans 2:14–15; 1 Corinthians 4:3–  
4 5, 8:12, 10:29); and

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6 WHEREAS, God has granted to all human beings the freedom to worship or not to worship  
7 according to the dictates of their consciences (Matthew 23:37; Revelation 3:20); and

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9 WHEREAS, History is replete with examples of the disastrous results of governmental efforts to  
10 interfere with individual conscience and religious belief; and

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12 WHEREAS, Our Baptist forebears suffered great persecution from civil authorities, including  
13 beatings, imprisonment, and death because of their commitment to the unassailable nature of  
14 conscience and faith; and

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16 WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects United States citizens  
17 from any interference by the Federal Government in their free exercise of religion; therefore, be it

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19 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
20 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
21 Convention, reaffirm our determination to safeguard the genuine free exercise rights of every  
22 United States citizen and express our concern about the suppression of religious liberty either by  
23 the establishment of religion or by the denial of free exercise; and be it further

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25 RESOLVED, That we pledge to defend the God-given and constitutionally guaranteed right of every  
26 American citizen to worship and obey God freely in thought, word, and action, according to the  
27 dictates of his or her conscience; and be it further

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29 RESOLVED, that we encourage South Carolina Baptists to pray for all government leaders and those  
30 in authority to use their influence to protect the religious liberties of all people (1 Timothy 2:1–2);  
31 and be it further

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33 RESOLVED, That we encourage South Carolina Baptists to oppose the restriction of the use of  
34 public monies as an act of discrimination against religious institutions that operate according to  
35 their deeply held religious beliefs and in any attempt by the government to define *church* or  
36 prohibit sharing the Gospel; and be it finally

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38 RESOLVED, That we call upon South Carolina Baptists to pray for all those who are suffering  
39 persecution and ridicule for their commitment to the Lord.

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1 **ABOLISHING ABORTION**

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WHEREAS, All human beings are created, at conception, in the image of God for His glory and for the glory of His Son, Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:27; 4:1; 21:2; Isaiah 7:14; Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:36); and

WHEREAS, As God’s image-bearers, all humans display divine worth, and possess equal, objective worth before God, that does not vary based on characteristics such as ethnicity, age, means of conception, mental development, physical development, gender, potential, or contribution to society (Romans 1:19–20; Genesis 1:27; 9:6; Matthew 18:6); and

WHEREAS, Taking the life of a preborn image-bearer constitutes the sin of murder, violating the sixth commandment forbidding murder, and as such, is ultimately an assault on God’s image, seeking to usurp God’s sovereignty as Creator (Exodus 20:13; Proverbs 6:17); and

WHEREAS, God’s Word declares that all human life is a sacred gift and that His Law is supreme over man’s life and man’s law (Psalm 127:3–5; 139; 13–16; Romans 2:15–16; Acts 10:42; 17:31; 1 Corinthians 4:5); and

WHEREAS, God commands His people to “rescue those who are being taken away to death” and holds them responsible and without excuse when they fail to do so (Proverbs 24:11–12); and

WHEREAS, God establishes all governing authorities as His servants to carry out His justice on the evildoer, and commands these authorities to judge justly and without partiality (Psalm 82; Proverbs 20:10; Romans 13:4); and

WHEREAS, In the 1973 case Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court of the United States rendered an iniquitous and unconstitutional decision, depriving the innocent of their rights and usurping God’s sovereign divine authority, as well as subverting the United States Constitution by contradicting the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments (Isaiah 5:23; 10:1–2; Psalm 2; Matthew 22:21; John 19:11; Acts 4:19; 5:29, Romans 13:1); and

WHEREAS, Governing authorities at every level (federal, state, county, and municipal) have a duty before God to uphold justice asserting their God-ordained and constitutional authority to establish and enforce equal protection under the law for all born and preborn human beings (Romans 13:1–7; Micah 6:8; James 2:1–13); and

WHEREAS, Over the past 48 years over 60 million abortions have taken place, and although we are grateful for the passionate dedication of pro-life defenders who have used their influence to restrict abortions, significantly lowering the number of abortions performed each year, we acknowledge



41 these efforts have not led to the end of abortion, so we must now primarily focus our attention,  
42 concentrate our efforts, and bring our influence to bear in supporting laws that will end abortion  
43 (1 Thessalonians 1:3; Ephesians 5:15); and

44

45 WHEREAS, Since 1980, the SBC and the SCBC have passed many resolutions reaffirming the  
46 importance of human life at all stages of development; and

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48 WHEREAS, Our confessional statement, *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, as stated in Article  
49 XV affirms that children “from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the  
50 Lord”; and further affirms that Southern Baptists are mandated by Scripture to “speak on behalf  
51 of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death;”  
52 therefore, be it

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54 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
55 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
56 Convention, state unequivocally that abortion is the taking of innocent life, thereby qualifying as  
57 murder as described in the sixth commandment, and we reject any position that allows exceptions  
58 to laws that are intended to abolish abortion and provide legal protection for all human life from  
59 the moment of conception (Psalm. 139:13–16; Proverbs 24:11; Psalm 82:1–4); and be it further

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61 RESOLVED, That we recognize that an ectopic pregnancy is not an abortion, but a tragedy during  
62 which medical triage is necessary, with doctors never ceasing to treat both mother and baby as  
63 human beings, and upholding the Hippocratic Oath by exhausting all possible options to save as  
64 many human lives as they can; and

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66 RESOLVED, While we continue to support all good faith efforts to restrict and reduce abortions,  
67 acknowledging the saving of any preborn life is a step toward saving all preborn life, we also  
68 acknowledge that our most fervent efforts must be focused on abolishing abortion once and for all,  
69 and we repent of sometimes being too quick to substitute pragmatic methods of protecting life  
70 when we should always be working toward the ultimate goal of ending abortion, therefore  
71 protecting every preborn life from the moment of conception (Galatians 6:9); and be it further

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73 RESOLVED, That as South Carolina Baptists we will engage, with God’s help, in establishing equal  
74 justice and protection for the preborn according to the authority of God’s Word as well as local,  
75 state, and federal law, and we call upon pastors and leaders to use their God-given gifts of  
76 preaching, teaching, and leading with one unified, principled, and prophetic voice to abolish  
77 abortion, and we call on all abortion providers and participants to repent and believe the Gospel of  
78 Jesus Christ; and be it finally

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80 RESOLVED, That since the Great Commission calls us to “go therefore and make disciples of all  
81 nations” therefore including all of humanity, and that preborn children are members of the human  
82 race, we call on all governing authorities at all levels to repent and obey “all that Christ has  
83 commanded” exhorting them to bear fruit in keeping with repentance by faithfully executing their  
84 responsibilities as God’s servants of justice and with all urgency work to enact legislation that will  
85 protect the life of all preborn babies from the moment of conception, thereby abolishing abortion  
86 (Matthew 28:18–20; Romans 13:4–6).

1 **HATE CRIMES**

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3 WHEREAS, The South Carolina House of Representatives passed the Clementa C. Pinckney Hate  
4 Crimes Act (H. 3620), which provides enhanced penalties for certain specified crimes; and

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6 WHEREAS, This bill is now being considered in the South Carolina Senate; and

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8 WHEREAS, This bill elevates sexual orientation to the level of a protected class on par with  
9 immutable characteristics such as race, gender, color, and national origin, thereby codifying sexual  
10 orientation under South Carolina law as an immutable characteristic; and

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12 WHEREAS, The Bible is clear in its condemnation of homosexual behavior (Leviticus 18:22;  
13 Romans 1:21–28; 1 Corinthians 6:9), and it is also clear in establishing that God created humanity  
14 male and female (Genesis 1:27; 5:2; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6); and

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16 WHEREAS, The phrase sexual orientation is understood to include the approval of homosexual,  
17 transgender, lesbian, and other unbiblical forms of sexual expression; and

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19 WHEREAS, Yet neither homosexual nor transgender persons constitute a class like race, ethnicity,  
or gender because their identity is based upon a lifestyle choice; and

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21 WHEREAS, Hate crimes legislation violates the United States Constitution’s Fourteenth  
22 Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law by extending special protected status to  
23 certain groups of people that is not available for others; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hate crimes legislation criminalizes beliefs as well as actions; and

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27 WHEREAS, In many jurisdictions where such thought crimes laws have been passed, they have  
28 been used to actively punish Christians who peacefully voice their moral opposition to homosexual  
and all other unbiblical sexual conduct; and

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30 WHEREAS, The inevitable application of this legislation would abridge our First Amendment  
31 freedom of speech and thus criminalize biblical preaching and speaking truth, achieving a key goal  
32 of LGBTQ+ activists and their allies, which is to muzzle the church in its moral opposition to their  
33 sinful lifestyle; therefore, be it

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35 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
36 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
37 Convention, strongly urge the members of the South Carolina Senate to reject this and any other  
38 bill that creates a special protected status for certain groups, violating the United States  
39 Constitution’s Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection; and be it further

40

41 RESOLVED, That if South Carolina passes this hate crimes bill or any similar bill, we strongly  
42 encourage the Governor to veto such unconstitutional legislation; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That we urge all Americans to avoid acts of hatred and violence toward LGBTQ+  
44 people, but to instead treat our fellow citizens with the kind of civility we would prefer to receive  
45 ourselves (Matthew 7:12); and be it finally

46 RESOLVED, That we encourage all believers to love and show compassion toward LGBTQ+  
47 persons, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is able to bring true freedom from error and set  
48 free the captives of sin (John 8:34–36).

1 **PROTECTING WOMEN’S SPORTS**

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3 WHEREAS, It is biblically clear that all persons are created in God’s image, and are created male  
4 and female (Genesis 1:27, 5:2; Matthew 19:5; Mark 10:6), and are made to glorify Him (Isaiah  
5 43:7); and

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7 WHEREAS, Based upon these truths, adopting a transgender self-conception is inconsistent with  
8 God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption; and

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10 WHEREAS, Biologically males are stronger and faster than comparably fit and trained females,  
11 having more muscle, and greater bone density and lung capacity; and

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13 WHEREAS, When our laws and policies ignore the real, biological differences between men and  
14 women, it is most often women and girls who are hurt; and

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16 WHEREAS, By being forced to compete against males, female athletes have seen their athletic  
17 opportunities limited; and

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19 WHEREAS, The sum and substance is, that men and women are different (1Peter 3:7), and those  
20 differences matter—particularly in the arena of athletics; and

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22 WHEREAS, The South Carolina General Assembly has been considering legislation to protect  
23 women’s sports, but at this time has failed to pass any definitive laws; therefore, be it

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25 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
26 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
27 Convention, affirm protecting opportunities for women and girls to pursue their God-given  
28 potential and dreams in the athletic arena; and be it further

29

30 RESOLVED, That we call on federal and state representatives to introduce and support legislation  
31 ensuring that women and girls are allowed a fair playing field in all levels of competitive sports  
32 by ensuring that school athletics comply with the recognition of a person’s reproductive biology  
33 and genetics at birth; and be it finally

34

35 RESOLVED, That we call on our federal and state representatives to introduce and support, and our  
36 Governor to sign, legislation protecting any and all intimate spaces for biological women and girls,  
37 which include but are not limited to locker rooms, bathrooms, and dorm rooms.

1 **BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST**  
2 **CONVENTION**

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4 WHEREAS, The word *vision* captures the 325-year spirit of Baptists in South Carolina since  
5 William Screven moved a small group to the South Carolina Lowcountry in search of religious  
6 freedom (Proverbs 29:18); and

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8 WHEREAS, The word *cooperation* captures the 200-year spirit of the South Carolina Baptist  
9 Convention and her people (Philippians 1:34); and

10  
11 WHEREAS, The word *missions* captures the ever-current and future spirit of Great Commission  
12 Baptists to see every life saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel beginning in the  
13 Palmetto State (Matthew 28:19–20); and

14  
15 WHEREAS, The word *education* captures the heart of pastoral leadership development and  
16 Christian discipleship as we endeavor to teach biblical principles and truth to those far from God,  
17 lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus, and help them grow from new believers to spiritually  
18 mature reproducing disciples (2 Timothy 4:1–2); and

19  
20 WHEREAS, The South Carolina Baptist Convention enjoys a rich history of creating successful  
21 ministry partners—*The Baptist Courier*, Connie Maxwell Children’s Ministries, the South  
22 Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging, the Baptist Foundation, Anderson University, Charleston  
23 Southern University, and North Greenville University—while continuing to fund international,  
24 national, and state missions; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, The South Carolina Baptist Convention models the pioneering spirit—from organizing  
27 as the first state Convention, which contributed to the birth of the Southern Baptist Convention,  
28 establishing the first Baptist seminary, contributing to the establishment of the Sunday School  
29 Board (now known as LifeWay Christian Resources), and continuing to be inspirational through  
30 leadership, training, and innovation; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, God has used broken and flawed individuals to lead the South Carolina Baptist  
33 Convention during its 200-year history, we continue to strive toward diversity and righteousness;  
34 and

35  
36 WHEREAS, While the South Carolina Baptist Convention recognizes and acknowledges years of  
37 sin and human failure by leaders within the organization being swayed by cultural norms and  
38 holding onto a self-centered society shaped by a humanistic worldview instead of adhering to  
39 biblical principles and lessons, only God receives the glory for the great things He has done to  
40 advance His Kingdom through this convention of churches; and

41 WHEREAS, Our Convention loves and appreciates African American, Anglo, Asian, Hispanic, and  
42 other non-English speaking pastors and congregations, we recognize further work is needed to  
43 better reflect the rich diversity of South Carolina; therefore, be it  
44

45 RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 201<sup>st</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention,  
46 meeting in Columbia, on November 8–9, 2021, and celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
47 Convention, encourage each person to intentionally develop new relationships with individuals  
48 from other neighborhoods, cultures, and countries; and be it further  
49

50 RESOLVED, That we value each person and consider unique methods and accommodations to reach  
51 every life regardless of their age, socio-economic status, or ethnic heritage until every life is  
52 saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel; and be it finally  
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54 Resolved, that we preach the good news of Jesus Christ, crucified for our sins and raised for our  
55 justification; evangelize and make disciples of all nations; and strive to enter the rest that our Savior  
56 secured for us by His finished work, not forsaking the gathering together of the saints until the  
57 great Day of the Lord when Jesus returns in His glory (Romans 10:13–17; Hebrews 4:11–13;  
58 Hebrews 10:23–25; Revelation 1:7).