

## 2022 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

We appreciate the privilege of serving on the 2022 Resolutions Committee. We prayerfully considered each resolution 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 South Carolinians, Convention-affiliated churches, and the Kingdom of Christ.

We present this report to the messengers of the 202<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, on November 14–15, 2022.

Disposition of received proposals:

1. **Appreciation**, presented as Resolution 1, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
2. **Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the South Carolina Baptist Collegiate Ministry**, presented as Resolution 2, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
3. **Support of Christian Higher Education**, amended and presented as Resolution 3, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
4. **The Use of Preferred Gender Pronouns**, amended and presented as Resolution 4, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
5. **Encouraging the South Carolina Legislature to Pass a Law Protecting Minors by Prohibiting Transgender Surgery, Puberty Blockers, and Cross-Hormone Therapies**, amended and presented as Resolution 5, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
6. **Exhorting Affiliated South Carolina Baptist Convention Churches to Develop Biblical Definitions and Policies to Confront Sexual Abuse**, amended and presented as Resolution 6, submitted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force
7. **Strengthening and Clarifying Laws Concerning Pastors and Churches Regarding Sexual Abuse**, amended and presented as Resolution 7, submitted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force
8. **Appreciation for Dr. Gary Hollingsworth**, presented as Resolution 8, submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Doug Mize, Chair

Donny Mathis, Vice-Chair

Ryan Ofenloch

Philip Turner

Bert Watts

### APPRECIATION

- 1
- 2
- 3 WHEREAS, the messengers of the 202<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention have
- 4 been the recipients of the gracious hospitality of the staff and members of Riverland Hills Baptist Church;
- 5 and
- 6
- 7 WHEREAS, Ryan Pack, Pastor of Riverland Hills Baptist Church, has provided excellent support for the
- 8 South Carolina Baptist Convention annual meeting and other related meetings; and
- 9
- 10 WHEREAS, worshipping together promises to be uplifting and demonstrates a commitment of South
- 11 Carolina Baptist Convention pastors and leaders to work together to advance God's kingdom and fulfill the
- 12 Great Commission; and

13 WHEREAS, the president, officers, committees, and platform personnel have conducted the affairs of this  
14 annual meeting with dignity and in a Christlike manner; and  
15  
16 WHEREAS, the messengers to the 202<sup>nd</sup> annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention  
17 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, have been received with enthusiastic affection,  
18 encouraged in ministry, and disciplined by dear friends; therefore, be it  
19  
20 RESOLVED, that we express our profound gratitude to the Lord and all those whose efforts have  
21 contributed to the joyful outlook, cooperative spirit, and evangelistic impact of this annual meeting.

1                   **CELEBRATING THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST**  
2   **COLLEGIATE MINISTRY**  
3

4 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Baptist Convention was built on a foundation of missions, education, and  
5 cooperation more than 200 years ago; and  
6

7 WHEREAS, our Convention continues to value and be committed to missions, education, and cooperation;  
8 and  
9

10 WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, the first two Baptist Student campus groups were founded at Winthrop  
11 University and USC-Columbia and have expanded to more than 30 groups across the state where they  
12 demonstrate these key core values every day; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, South Carolina students were instrumental in promoting the growth of the Cooperative  
15 Program in our state as teams of students traveled to churches encouraging them to adopt this new form of  
16 working together to accomplish God’s mission; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, this year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry sending college student  
19 summer missionaries and 2,107 students have devoted their summers to proclaim the Gospel across South  
20 Carolina, North America, and the World; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, BCM part- and full-time staff members and student leaders intentionally focus on building  
23 relationships on each campus and with local churches; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the BCM disciples new believers, sends student missionaries, encourages students to go deep  
26 into God’s Word, challenges young adults to discover truth in an imperfect world, provides a safe place for  
27 fellowship, and welcomes all who come; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, there are more than 200,000 South Carolina college students currently not involved in any type  
30 of church; therefore, be it  
31

32 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South  
33 Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, honor the Baptist Collegiate Ministry for the countless lives impacted for  
34 Christ throughout the years; and be it further  
35

36 RESOLVED, that we promote the work and ministry of the BCM with others in our churches and  
37 gatherings and work to become involved with BCM; and be it finally  
38

39 RESOLVED, that we celebrate the past 100 years of ministry on college and university campuses in South

40 Carolina, and that we pray for many more years of missions, service, and lives surrendered to Christ.

## **SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

1  
2  
3 WHEREAS, providing Christian higher education has been a foremost priority among South Carolina  
4 Baptists; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, by the grace of God, the South Carolina Baptist Convention has established universities that  
7 have made great contributions not only to the Body of Christ including Baptists in South Carolina, but also  
8 to our communities, state, nation, and the world; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, we are one generation away from a people who know not God or the great things He has done,  
11 necessitating a priority on the Christian higher education of the next generation; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, while a great many schools of higher education nationally have drifted from their original  
14 commitments to undergird and advance the Great Commission, as evidenced by former Baptist universities  
15 and colleges that are no longer confessional or even recognizably Christian; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the forces which drive schools toward compromise, spiritual apathy, and secularism are  
18 diverse, including the fear of numerical and financial decline, thirst for prestige, and the applause of the  
19 world to the detriment of doctrinal fidelity; therefore, be it

20  
21 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention  
22 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, express our gratitude for the ministry of our  
23 Baptist institutions of higher education; and be it further

24  
25 RESOLVED, that we affirm and commend the administrators, faculties, and staffs of these institutions for  
26 their dedication to the cause of Christian higher education; and be it further

27  
28 RESOLVED, that we encourage a commitment to responsible Christian liberty, academic excellence,  
29 faithfulness to the Word of God, and the freedom of conscience and expression which results in spiritual and  
30 moral maturity on these campuses; and be it finally

31  
32 RESOLVED, that South Carolina Baptists reaffirm our commitment to Anderson, Charleston Southern, and  
33 North Greenville Universities as they stand for doctrinal fidelity and biblical values, supporting them by  
34 sending them our students, equipping them with capable and godly trustees, and resourcing them with our  
35 continued financial support.

## **ON THE USE OF PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS**

1  
2  
3 WHEREAS, God’s people are called to love and serve our neighbors (Mark 12:31); and

4  
5 WHEREAS, much conversation has arisen in Evangelical circles about the acceptability of using preferred  
6 gender pronouns; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, God, being the ultimate knower and creator of every life, has fixed the objective definitions  
9 of sexuality and gender identity wholly within the realm of His revelation and creative purpose (Genesis  
10 1:26–27); and

11 WHEREAS, in denying the existence of objective truth, the philosophies undergirding the demands of the  
12 LGBTQ+ movement for public conformity to preferred pronoun usage view the institution of language as a  
13 tool of political power to be wielded in the public square; and  
14  
15 WHEREAS, language was created by God to describe, point toward, and give praise for whatever is true  
16 and beautiful in His creation (Genesis 1:31); and  
17  
18 WHEREAS, modern language demands are often used to circumvent dialogue, coerce speech, and cultivate  
19 new cultural assumptions that obfuscate biblical truth; and  
20  
21 WHEREAS, to speak in a way contrary to God’s revelation and creative purpose by adopting and uttering  
22 preferred pronouns that refer to anything other than an individual’s birth sex and chromosomal make-up is  
23 to speak falsely about the imago Dei (image of God) revealed in man and woman; and  
24  
25 WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists’ ability to contend for the Gospel surrounding the so-called same-sex  
26 marriage issue was greatly diminished by the culture’s prior adoption of contradictory same-sex marriage  
27 language that rendered our sexual ethic incomprehensible to many; therefore, be it  
28  
29 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention  
30 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, state unequivocally our love for our LGBTQ+  
31 neighbors, praying earnestly for genuine friendships leading to fruitful conversations about the Gospel; and  
32 be it further  
33  
34 RESOLVED, that we affirm the measure of our love toward our neighbors should not be evaluated by our  
35 willingness to utter any unbiblical and false language and assumptions; and be it further  
36  
37 RESOLVED, that we hereby call on all South Carolina Baptists to recognize the peril of ceding any  
38 linguistic ground to a movement that has demonstrated its intention to use language as a tool to render our  
39 message less comprehensible to those we seek to evangelize; be it further  
40  
41 RESOLVED, that we encourage all South Carolina Baptists to resist speaking falsely and giving credence to  
42 the philosophies of the LGBTQ+ movement by adopting preferred pronouns that do not refer to a person’s  
43 created sex and biological makeup; and be it finally  
44  
45 RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to dialogue with and showing compassion to those who experience  
46 gender dysphoria while engaging them with the kindness and truth of Christ (Ephesians 4:15; Galatians  
47 5:22–23).

1     **ENCOURAGING THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE TO PASS A LAW PROTECTING**  
2     **MINORS BY PROHIBITING TRANSGENDER SURGERY, PUBERTY BLOCKERS, AND CROSS-**  
3     **HORMONE THERAPIES**  
4

5 WHEREAS, all persons are created in God’s image and are made to glorify Him (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah  
6 43:7); and  
7  
8 WHEREAS, God’s design is the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female  
9 (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6) which designate the fundamental distinction that God has  
10 embedded in the very biology of the human race; and

11 WHEREAS, transgenderism is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a  
12 gender identity that does not match a person’s physical/genetic sex; and  
13  
14 WHEREAS, approximately 700,000 individuals in the United States identify as transgender; and  
15  
16 WHEREAS, according to multiple media reports, high-profile hospitals, including some children’s  
17 hospitals, have been accused of performing gender transition surgery, and prescribing puberty blockers and  
18 cross-sex hormones for minors; and  
19  
20 WHEREAS, we recognize the biblical mandate that parents are responsible to guide their children, making  
21 decisions that are in the best interest of their children’s spiritual, emotional, and psychological development  
22 (Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 22:6; I Timothy 3:12); and  
23  
24 WHEREAS, in 2021 Arkansas became the first state to ban transgender surgery and the proscribing of  
25 puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors; and  
26  
27 WHEREAS, state legislatures including Tennessee, Utah, Florida, Texas, and Idaho, are considering laws  
28 that would mirror Arkansas’s ban; and  
29  
30 WHEREAS, according to studies conducted at Vanderbilt University and London’s Portman Clinic, when  
31 children who reported transgender feelings were tracked without medical or surgical treatment, 70–80  
32 percent of them spontaneously lost those feelings; and  
33  
34 WHEREAS, current trends indicate that some public schools are encouraging parents and teachers to affirm  
35 the feelings of children under the age of 18 whose self-perception of their own gender is at variance with  
36 their biological sex; and  
37  
38 WHEREAS, children under the age of 18 are not equipped mentally, emotionally, spiritually, or  
39 psychologically to choose to change their gender identity through the introduction of powerful life-altering  
40 drugs or sex reassignment surgery; and  
41  
42 WHEREAS, these disturbing cultural currents run counter to biblical teaching as summarized in the *Baptist*  
43 *Faith and Message 2000*, Article III, that “Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He  
44 created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the  
45 goodness of God’s creation”; therefore, be it  
46  
47 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South  
48 Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, affirm God’s good design that gender identity is determined by biological  
49 sex and that regardless of one’s personal identity, males are distinguished by possessing both an X and Y  
50 chromosomes, while females possess two X chromosomes and not by one’s self-perception which is often  
51 influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God’s design (Ephesians 4:17–18); and be it further  
52  
53 RESOLVED, that we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in such psychological  
54 manifestations as gender identity confusion and point everyone to the hope of the redemption of our bodies  
55 in Christ (Romans 8:23), and be it further  
56  
57 RESOLVED, we strongly encourage the South Carolina Legislature to draft and pass a law that will prohibit  
58 children under the age of 18 from obtaining transgender surgery, receiving puberty-blocking medication, or  
59 being subjected to cross-hormone treatment; and be it further

60 RESOLVED, the law also be worded to prevent teachers, school officials, counselors, medical  
61 professionals, and all others who may have influence over a minor child from encouraging expressions  
62 of gender confusion and from concealing any expressed confusion from the minor child’s parent or legal  
63 guardian; and be it finally

64

65 RESOLVED, that we commit to pray these things for minor children: a hedge of protection from physical,  
66 mental, and spiritual abuse; clarity in the minds of all caregivers to do no harm, intended or otherwise; a  
67 revelation or a renewed sense of God’s truth which is absolute; and an avenue to hear God’s word to feel the  
68 Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives.

1       **EXHORTING AFFILIATED SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION CHURCHES TO**  
2       **DEVELOP BIBLICAL DEFINITIONS AND POLICIES TO CONFRONT SEXUAL ABUSE**

3

4 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Baptist Convention 2022 Sexual Abuse Task Force (Task Force) recognizes  
5 the devastating impact of sexual abuse on society, as well as on affiliated churches and their congregations;  
6 and

7

8 WHEREAS, as part of its commission to acknowledge sexual abuse and to equip South Carolina Baptist  
9 Convention member churches to work to prevent, report, and facilitate healing from the effects of sexual  
10 abuse in their congregations; and

11

12 WHEREAS, the Bible deems sexual assault/abuse as sin against God (Genesis 34); and

13

14 WHEREAS, explicit passages address non-consensual sexual acts as sexual assault and a violation of God’s  
15 law (Genesis 12:10–16); and

16

17 WHEREAS, sexual assault/abuse can result in physical and emotional trauma, shame, and loss of self-worth  
18 (2 Samuel 13); and

19

20 WHEREAS, every life has been created in the Image of God and has worth, dignity, and value (Genesis  
21 1:27); and

22

23 WHEREAS, God ordained the sexual union between a husband and a wife (Genesis 2:24–25), for their  
24 pleasure, with the intent to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28), and to symbolize the  
25 one-flesh relationship between Christ and His Church; and

26

27 WHEREAS, anyone who has experienced sexual abuse, can find hope, healing, and freedom in Christ (Luke  
28 4:18–19) because He will deliver the needy, the afflicted, and the oppressed and rescue them (Psalm 22:24;  
29 Psalm 34:18), and

30

31 WHEREAS, the Sexual Abuse Task Force has defined sexual abuse as:

32       Any sexual activity or harassment, with perpetrators exerting power over the other, making  
33       threats against another, or taking advantage of victims. Sexual abuse also includes acts such as  
34       exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by any  
35       means. The absence of force or coercion does not diminish the abusive nature of the conduct.;  
36       therefore, be it

37

38 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South  
39 Carolina, on November 14–15, 2022, exhort churches and their leaders to recognize the potential effect



45 depth background and reference assessments to thwart any abuse; and be it finally  
46  
47 RESOLVED, that we work to discover and implement effective methods to protect the innocent and assist  
48 victims and survivors of abuse and preserve the witness of Christ’s Church.

1 **APPRECIATION OF DR. GARY HOLLINGSWORTH**

2  
3 WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Hollingsworth was raised in a Christian home and accepted Jesus as his Savior when  
4 he was 7 years old; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, he was called to the ministry at the age of 17; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, he served as a student pastor, associate pastor, senior pastor, and trustee to several Baptist  
9 entities; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, he served the Southern Baptist denomination faithfully for more than 30 years; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, he has received both earned and honorary degrees from Baptist universities and seminaries;  
14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, he taught and encouraged thousands of people to engage the culture, evangelize the lost, and  
17 disciple new Christians; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, he will have completed seven years of invaluable leadership as the Executive Director-  
20 Treasurer to the South Carolina Baptist Convention when he retires in April 2023; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, Dr. Hollingsworth worked to unify and stabilize the Convention around a vision looking  
23 toward “a day where every life is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel”; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, throughout his tenure as the Executive Director-Treasurer, Dr. Hollingsworth has modeled  
26 servant leadership through his love for and encouragement to pastors and leaders across the state of South  
27 Carolina; therefore, be it

28  
29 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South  
30 Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, recognize his contributions to our churches and his concern for all  
31 people; and be it further

32  
33 RESOLVED, that we pray that the Lord will sustain the Hollingsworths through all future ministry  
34 endeavors; and be it further

35  
36 RESOLVED, that we commit to pray for continued good health and opportunities to share their wisdom and  
37 knowledge wherever possible; and be it finally

38  
39 RESOLVED, that we express our appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth for their devotion and  
40 commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and toward  
41 advancing the Gospel to all.