

SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION

TUESDAY MORNING

Nov. 15, 2022

202nd
Annual Meeting



Dr. John Avant,
Director and
President of Life
Action Ministries,
served as Senior
Pastor of First

Baptist Concord in Knoxville,
Tennessee. He was also the
Vice President of Evangelism
and Spiritual Awakening at the
North American Mission Board.
John has authored four books.

SESSION TWO | RENEWAL

This morning we look forward to hearing how God is at work in our state and our ministries. We also recognize the difficult work before us as we respond to the report of the Southern Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force. We are grieved for survivors who have been overlooked, unheard, or dismissed. We lament the actions and abuses that have brought us to this point. In the midst of this grief, we are not without hope. We are committed to taking the necessary steps to protect the vulnerable, care for the abused, and do our part to lead the way. We realize we are in challenging days, but that we are called to be salt and light in these times. We will hear from the Sexual Abuse Task Force at 9:35 this morning.

2022 PRESIDENT



Wayne Bray
serves as the
lead pastor at
Simpsonville
First Baptist
/ Upstate
Church. For
the first 20

years of ministry, Dr. Bray
served small to medium-
sized churches, both rural
and suburban, in Georgia
and Louisiana. He enjoys
teaching as Adjunct Faculty
at Anderson University.

We are honored to recognize Slater Baptist Church, Senator Billy Garrett, and Dr. Gary Hollingsworth for Christian Life and Public Affairs Service Awards.

THIS AFTERNOON

- Bylaws Committee report at 2:45
- Nominations Committee report at 3:00
- Committee on Committees report at 3:08
- Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee report at 3:10
- Resolutions Committee report at 3:20
- Executive Board report at 3:45
- Executive Director-Treasurer report at 4:35



WAKE UP!

CHRISTIAN LIFE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARDS



IMPACT YOUR WORLD AWARD

Slater Baptist Church is the 2022 Impact Your World Award recipient. Members of Slater Baptist conduct reading groups in the local elementary school and invite a homeschool co-op to meet at the church. They offer meals to shut-ins, collect food for distribution in the community, and participate in many community events. Scott Catoe is the pastor.



PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Senator Billy Garrett is receiving the Public Service Award this year. He led the fight in the Senate for many conservative issues during the 2021-2022 Legislative session including the Save Women's Sports bill, Medical Rights of Conscience, the Heartbeat Bill, the Religion is Essential Act, and many other conservative bills that helped to defend life and preserve religious liberty. We appreciate your generous concern about social and moral issues in South Carolina.



E.A. MCDOWELL AWARD

The Office of Public Policy and the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee is concerned with social and moral issues, especially to those that pertain to families and churches. Dr. Hollingsworth has been a staunch supporter of this office and this committee.

The committee chose to honor him and his work dealing with these issues daily by selecting him as the 2022 E. A. McDowell Award recipient. This work is a high priority as we present the Baptist point-of-view to our legislators at the State House. Issues like education, abortion, medical marijuana, hate crimes, and gender confusion are among the topics we monitor and discuss in the legislature. Dr. Hollingsworth's leadership and dedication to life, education, missions, and other important issues are treasured and appreciated.



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 202nd 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 100th 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 202nd 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 202nd 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 100TH 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 75th 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 202nd 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 202nd 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.

TUESDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:50	PRE-SERVICE WORSHIP	LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES
9:00	THEME INTERPRETATION	WILL BROADUS
9:10	GREETINGS - BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL AND MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA	DR. DONALD E. GREENE
9:15	SCBAPTIST LIFE TRANSFORMATION MOMENTS	LEE CLAMP
9:35	REPORT - SEXUAL ABUSE TASK FORCE	D.J. HORTON
10:00	WORSHIP	LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES
10:10	NEW BUSINESS	WAYNE BRAY
10:20	BCM 100TH ANNIVERSARY MOMENT	CHAD STILLWELL
10:30	REPORT - HISTORY COMMITTEE	MICHAEL BRYANT
10:45	ELECTION OF OFFICERS	WAYNE BRAY
11:00	GREETINGS - NAMB, SEND, IMB	WILL BROWNING, DAVID AND JO BROWN, CHRIS DERRY
11:05	REPORT - UNIVERSITIES	DR. EVANS WHITAKER, DR. DONDI COSTIN, DR. GENE FANT
11:15	LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES	WAYNE BRAY, JOHN AVANT
11:25	WORSHIP	LIFE ACTION MINISTRIES
11:30	MESSAGE	JOHN AVANT
11:50	CLOSING AND LUNCH BREAK	WAYNE BRAY

We will resume for the Afternoon Session at 1:50.

**WAKEUP!**

WAKE UP!



190 Stoneridge Drive
Columbia, SC 29210
scbaptist.org

This SCBaptist event is made possible through the Cooperative Program giving of South Carolina Baptist churches.