

APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, The messengers of the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention have been the recipients of the cordial hospitality of the members, pastor, and staff of First Baptist Church in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the Lord's grace in enabling our Convention, Associations, and Church leaders to innovate with wisdom and grace during this year of the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptist leaders have used the Covid-19 Pandemic to create new service and mission opportunities by learning how to stream worship services, installing online giving processes, providing safe spaces for children to do school work, looking for unique ways to serve the community, working with school systems to deliver food or feed students who would have gone hungry during school closures, etc.; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists have a *Legacy* of missions, cooperation, and generosity in sharing time and resources—especially during trying times; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, We, the messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 10, 2020, express our appreciation to the members, pastor, and staff of Columbia's First Baptist Church for the exceptional leadership and hospitality offered in hosting this historic meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we offer gratitude to the Convention officers, committees, platform personalities, and worship leaders for their inspiration among us; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray to live each day with intentionality to help someone see the light of Jesus in our lives as we reach out to a hurting world; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His mercies, opportunities to serve, and the joy of fellowship with each other during this gathering of South Carolina Baptists.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

WHEREAS, The International Mission Board (IMB; formerly known as the Foreign Mission Board) was established by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the IMB has been partnering with local churches to send missionaries to the nations; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of South Carolina Baptists have served as missionaries through the work of the IMB over these 175 years; and

WHEREAS, The International Mission Board has endured through many crises: financial (\$1.68 in the accounts after the Civil War but miraculously survived), war (among the darkest days was the imprisonment of 90 missionaries in death camps in the Pacific during the Second World War), and persecution (deadly terror attacks on missionaries in the Middle East); and

WHEREAS, The IMB has maintained a fidelity to the Gospel, the Word of God, and the Great Commission of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, On its 175th anniversary, the IMB maintains a clear vision of Revelation 7:9, to see a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, all gathered around the throne of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists never lose sight of the sobering reality more than 154,000 people will pass into eternity each day without a saving faith in Jesus Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists are committed to ~~the~~ continued partnership with the International Mission Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists renew a commitment to pray, give, and go in partnership with the International Mission Board until every language and people have heard the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists give sacrificially through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering[®] to support more than 3,600 missionaries who are sharing the Gospel and planting churches among Unreached and Unengaged People Groups (UUPG) throughout the world; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 10, 2020, challenge each South Carolina Baptist and every South Carolina Baptist church to increase support for the International Mission Board financially and by raising and sending 500 additional missionaries to the field by the year 2025.

STATEMENT ON SEXUAL AND GENDER ETHICS

WHEREAS, On November 13, 2001, the South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) affirmed the confessional statement of the Southern Baptist Convention known as *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* (*BFM 2000*), which is a summary statement of doctrine, practice, and ethics derived from the Bible, which is the perfect Word of God and final authority for life, truth, and human conduct in keeping with our historic position; and

WHEREAS, We believe that we are created male and female as defined by a person's DNA at birth and as stated in Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" and Psalm 139:13 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb"; and

WHEREAS, Regarding human sexuality, Article XVIII of *BFM 2000* states, "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime," and that marriage defined, is ". . . the framework for intimate companionship, [and] the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards . . ."; and

WHEREAS, Regarding human sexuality, Article XV of *BFM 2000* states, "In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose . . . all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography"; and

WHEREAS, We believe that the currently ascendant postmodern sexual and gender ethic within our culture calls for our reaffirmation of the basic biblical sexual ethic as expressed in *BFM 2000*, along with more specific words regarding gender and the spirit of Christ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 10, 2020, reaffirm the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*, including the biblical sexual ethic expressed therein; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we believe God's will regarding sexual activity is abstinence in singleness and faithfulness in marriage for life between one biological male and one biological female; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we believe sexual behaviors that are pre-marital, extra-marital, or same-sex in nature are contrary to God's design and will; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm and express these convictions with respect for the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being and with genuine love for those who do not share our biblical worldview; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm every human being as God's precious image-bearer for whom Jesus Christ died and that we aspire to be kind and loving vessels of His redemptive purpose to reach a broken and hurting world with the hope of the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as we engage with others in the spirit of Christ regarding these convictions, we

would be clear that the gentleness, love, and respect we show should not be interpreted as approval of, nor acquiescence to, an unbiblical sexual, gender, or transgender ethic; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the SCBC, as the appropriate authority for the interpretation and application of biblical truth for all Convention ministries, Institutions, and Ministry Partners, hereby affirms that the faith, ethic, and spirit of Christ expressed herein shall characterize the work and service of the Convention—on mission and in ministry; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we affirm and commend for continued application, the faith, ethic, and spirit of Christ expressed herein to the boards and administrations of all SCBC-affiliated agencies, auxiliaries, partners, and universities as they continue to pursue and fulfill their respective missions with dignity, love, and respect for all persons.

BIBLICAL JUSTICE AND RACE RELATIONS

WHEREAS, The messengers to the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting passed a resolution decrying every form of racism as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and denouncing and repudiating white supremacy and every form of racial and ethnic hatred as a scheme of the devil intended to bring suffering and division to our society; and

WHEREAS, The resolution also acknowledged that we still must make progress in rooting out any remaining forms of intentional or unintentional racism in our midst; and

WHEREAS, Our country, our state, and our history as Southern Baptists have been adversely affected by the sinful attitudes of prejudice and racism; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the pain that prejudice and racism have brought to our African American brothers and sisters in Christ; and

WHEREAS, The current and ongoing cultural debate over the meaning of social justice has inflamed passions, created tension with law enforcement, and added to a dangerous divide that threatens to undermine progress being made in race relations and racial reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, While we acknowledge that a secular understanding of social justice calls for fair treatment of all people including respect for the rights of minorities, it is often grounded in critical theory, intersectional political theory, and other philosophical concepts that run counter to the teaching of God's Word; and

WHEREAS, Secular social justice rests on the foundation of Enlightenment thinkers, who believed morality and justice must be based on reason alone, abandoning any belief in transcendent principles that eclipse human reason and deny the reality and universality of the fallen nature of humanity, thereby undermining any objective foundation for morality and justice; and

WHEREAS, Biblical justice rests on and flows out of the foundation of God's inerrant and infallible Word; and

WHEREAS, Biblical justice embraces the biblical principles of community (Deut. 24:17-22), equity (Isaiah 33:15; Deut. 24:14-15), corporate responsibility (Dan. 9), individual responsibility (Deut. 24:16; Ro. 3:23; Ro. 3:10-17), and advocacy (Isa. 1:17; Ps. 82:4; Prov. 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Biblical justice recognizes the value of all people based on the fact that all bear the image of God and that every life is equally sacred, valuable, and worthy of equal protection under God and under the law; and

WHEREAS, Authentic Christian love calls us to build bridges over the racial divide that threatens to destroy our fellowship and inhibit spreading the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The atonement Christ made on the cross is the only sure means of reconciling us to God, which is the first step to reconciling with each other; and

WHEREAS, When the world sees the power of the Gospel to reconcile people who have been divided by sinful attitudes of racial prejudice, they will recognize God as the author of real change in the human heart and be drawn to the message of the Gospel; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 10, 2020, call upon South Carolina Baptists to multiply our efforts in our communities to intentionally, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, reach across racial and ethnic boundaries to establish new relationships, promote improved understanding between races, build genuine friendships, and seek mutually beneficial ministry relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry beginning with our thoughts, words, and actions as we model Jesus' love and value for all people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our deepest appreciation and commit to consistently pray for members of our law enforcement community who carry out their duties with integrity, courage, and selflessness and we encourage all efforts designed to improve relationships between law enforcement leaders and the local community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Chaplains serving in South Carolina to foster relationships with local law enforcement and model Christ's love and patience to further racial harmony; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we pledge our commitment to the Great Commission task of making disciples of all people (Matthew 28:19), confessing that in the church, God is calling together one people from every tribe and nation (Revelation 5:9), and proclaiming that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only certain and sufficient ground upon which redeemed persons will stand together in a restored unity as joint-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).

GREAT COMMISSION BAPTISTS

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention was formed in Augusta, Georgia in 1845; and

WHEREAS, From the beginning, the name *Southern* was chosen because of a desire to be identified by a particular region and its culture and was chosen with much controversy; and

WHEREAS, The work of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was never meant to be merely regional or subservient to the culture and the moniker *Southern* often creates barriers when ministering outside the South; and

WHEREAS, The apostle Paul modeled servant leadership for the sake of the Gospel by becoming all things to all people that some might be saved (1 Corinthians:19–22); and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 175-year history of the SBC, the essential and unifying purpose of the assembly has been to further the causes of missions and education in service of the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, In 2011 a task force was appointed by the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to study a name change; and

WHEREAS, The task force proposed to the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention that while a legal name change would be challenging, that the Convention adopt the alternative descriptor Great Commission Baptists; and

WHEREAS, The messengers to the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting approved a motion to affirm that churches, entities, and organizations in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention which may desire to use a descriptor other than *Southern Baptist* to consider using the descriptor *Great Commission Baptists*—a phrase commended as one fully in keeping with our Southern Baptist identity; and

WHEREAS, It is common for entities to operate under alternative names and Great Commission Baptists is a non-legal descriptor which further describes and identifies the Southern Baptist Convention without altering its structure, agencies, funding streams, or affiliated mission organizations; and

WHEREAS, The alternative descriptor Great Commission Baptists provides churches, associations, state conventions, and other entities affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention an alternative means by which to identify that affiliation without altering the nature of that affiliation and the means by which it is affected and maintained; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention has expanded its reach throughout all of North America and the World; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, We believe the descriptor Great Commission Baptists represents the mission of the Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That since the descriptor has already been approved by the messengers of the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention, we support those who choose to use the descriptor Great Commission Baptists in an effort to identify the mission given to the church by the Lord; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 200th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia, on November 10, 2020, proclaim our historical and present reliance on Matthew 28 as a guiding principle of our mission; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we seek to recommit ourselves, as South Carolina Baptists, to unite around the Great Commission in all efforts to reach our neighbors, our state, our nation, and the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.