

APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus urging them to make “every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3); and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptist leaders from across the state have gathered to fellowship, worship, and conduct business, pursuing the mission of our cooperative work as One Family; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate Wes Church, 2024 Convention President and Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Columbia, for uniting South Carolina Baptists in one great missionary effort at home and abroad “Till All Have Heard” (Romans 10:14–15); and

WHEREAS, we value the men and women on staff at First Baptist Church of Columbia who have worked diligently to accommodate this meeting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, express our appreciation to all who worked faithfully to serve South Carolina Baptists by graciously hosting the 2024 annual meeting; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we offer thanks to our Heavenly Father for the opportunity to come together as we commit our time, resources, and talents to go to our neighbors and the nations Till All Have Heard the gospel of Christ!

This resolution was passed unanimously by the messengers attending the SCBaptist Convention annual meeting at Columbia’s First Baptist Church on November 11–12, 2024.

SCBAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS, Hurricane Helene devastated many areas in the Southeastern United States, including Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, many have experienced the loss of life or their possessions, and thousands continue to deal with extraordinary challenges due to the storm; and

WHEREAS, SCBaptist Disaster Relief volunteers were among the first responders in the wake of the storm removing trees from homes and roadways, providing food, water, supplies, and comfort to people in need; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptist volunteers and agencies continue to minister on the front lines of disaster relief, bringing the hope of the gospel in those areas most affected by the storms; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, do hereby enthusiastically affirm the SCBaptist Disaster Relief organization and volunteers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our gratitude to the thousands of South Carolina Baptists and other volunteers who have given of themselves unselfishly to help people in the devastated areas in their time of need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage all SCBaptist churches to help with the ongoing recovery efforts in the region so that Jesus Christ may be gloried as we share his love with our neighbors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we recommit ourselves as South Carolina Baptists to pray diligently for all who are seeking to rebuild their lives and livelihoods in the midst of these difficult circumstances.

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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention will reach one hundred years of inter-congregational financial cooperation in 2025, and

WHEREAS, inter-congregational financial cooperation is a New Testament model of financial stewardship, patterned after first-century churches as individuals collated their resources and relationships to send missionaries to evangelize the lost and plant churches (Acts 16); and

WHEREAS, the history of the Southern Baptist Convention, constituted in 1845, was built upon centuries of mission-minded inter-congregational cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Program has served as the Convention's primary funding mechanism for nearly 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention is a voluntary mission-giving mechanism that undergirds the worldwide mission work of cooperating Southern Baptist churches, and

WHEREAS, churches voluntarily combine resources to mobilize missionaries, fund theological education, plant churches, strengthen established churches, assist communities in crises, embolden church leaders, advocate for biblical values in the public square, and more; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, celebrate the \$1.3 billion South Carolina Baptists have sacrificially given during the one-hundred years of the Cooperative Program as seen in the financial statements and previous missions mobilization reports available in past Convention Annuals; and be it finally

RESOLVED, SCBaptist churches should continue to labor and cooperate together by giving through and supporting the Cooperative Program as the primary giving mechanism amongst Southern Baptists.

APPRECIATION FOR CHRISTIAN-BASED DRUG REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, drug overdose deaths have increased by 100 percent since 2015;¹ and,

WHEREAS, over half of the deaths from age twenty-five to age fifty-four are related to drug overdoses;² and,

WHEREAS, in South Carolina, fentanyl and opioid deaths have increased by over 400 percent during the last decade;³ and,

WHEREAS, all people are created in the image of God, and no person is beyond the redeeming power of God and His grace (Romans 1:16–17, 10:9–13; Ephesians 2:1–11); and,

WHEREAS, those who introduce lost addicts to the gospel of Jesus Christ and provide both spiritual and practical methods to address substance abuse attend to a noble and difficult task (Proverbs 31:8–9; Isaiah 52:7; Luke 10:25–37; John 4:35); and,

WHEREAS, God commends those who bring a sinner back from his wandering (James 5:19) and teaches him to walk with God (Galatians 5:16); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, hereby recognize and appreciate those churches and parachurch ministries who work to redeem, rehabilitate, and restore people addicted to drugs and other substances; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage pastors and lay leaders to aid those working in this area through prayer, discipleship, financial support, and other means as God gives opportunity; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we encourage legislators and government officials to consider holistic solutions to the current illegal drug crisis, including the public support of faith-based rehabilitation.

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db491-tables.pdf#1>

²<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db491-tables.pdf#2>

³https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/drug_poisoning_mortality/drug_poisoning.htm;
<https://www.daodas.sc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Opioid-Mortality.pdf>

ENCOURAGING LAWS TO PROTECT PARENTAL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of society and established a unique bond between parent and child (Genesis 1:27–28; Psalm 24:1); and

WHEREAS, God has established parents as the primary stewards of their children to teach and model spiritual and moral values (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4 and Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Article XVIII); and

WHEREAS, God has ordained the state to promote good and restrain evil, thereby cultivating morality that is not based on subjective moral claims but rather, is based on the truth of God's Word creating the conditions necessary for the flourishing of families and children (1 Peter 2:14; Romans 13:1–5); and

WHEREAS, part of promoting the good in restraining evil requires the state to intervene in instances of parental abuse, neglect, or endangerment; and

WHEREAS, public schools have a responsibility to be transparent about what they teach children and to respect parents' wishes when it comes to divisive and potentially harmful issues, including, but not limited to, gender ideology, critical race theory, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, medical providers have a responsibility to inform parents and never to withhold information from them about their child's mental or physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly common for some in the medical, educational, and legal sectors to encroach upon and attempt to supersede the God-given rights of parents; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, affirm that parents are the primary stewards and decision-makers for their children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage the South Carolina Legislature to partner with families to enact legislation that protects and upholds parental rights; ensures that parents have the freedom to make decisions regarding the upbringing, education, and healthcare of their children without outside interferences; and recognizes that parents are the primary arbiters of their child's moral, physical, and spiritual formation; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call upon churches, pastors, and all South Carolina Baptists to advocate for policies and practices that support and strengthen the family, upholding the family as the primary institution for nurturing and rearing children.

This resolution was passed unanimously by the messengers attending the SCBaptist Convention annual meeting at Columbia's First Baptist Church on November 11–12, 2024.

GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

WHEREAS, God has ordained the family as the foundation of human society, beginning with marriage between one man and one woman and extending to the intentional discipleship of children in the home (Genesis. 1:26–27; 2:18–25; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalm 127:1–5); and

WHEREAS, a Christless culture distorts God's design of the family, and sin causes brokenness within the family through death, separation, or divorce; and

WHEREAS, the family unit can experience tragedy in multiple ways outside their control through the loss of a spouse, or loss of both parents; and

WHEREAS, now, more than ever, the church has the responsibility and opportunity to minister to families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at First Baptist Church of Columbia on November 11–12, 2024, renew our commitment to encourage families as they grow together in affection for our Lord; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage SCBaptist churches to be intentional in their efforts to strengthen families through the faithful preaching of Scripture, biblical premarital and marital counseling, and other efforts as God leads; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we exhort SCBaptist churches to boldly set forth the standard of God's design for the family in their teaching; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we charge South Carolina Baptist parents to embrace their responsibility as the primary disciplers of their children and model a biblical family as a witness to others; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that where parents are unable or unwilling to uphold God's design for the family, South Carolina Baptists actively encourage kinship care, foster care, adoption, and mentoring.