

Resolution one: On Evangelism and Missions

WHEREAS, there has been an alarming downturn among Southern Baptist churches in baptisms during the last few years; and

WHEREAS, the North American Mission Board and International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention both urged churches to be more intentional in their evangelism; and

WHEREAS, an adequate understanding of the gospel has been less frequently articulated; and

WHEREAS, a clear and complete offer of the gospel to all men and women must be recovered; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 12-13, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas, understand “evangelism” as the intentional, verbal declaration of the biblical gospel to unbelievers in the power of the Holy Spirit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we articulate the death, burial, and resurrection of the God-man, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins as the heart of the gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a clear and complete gospel presentation, includes the invitation to repent of one’s sins and to believe in Jesus Christ as the only way to receive God’s salvation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to utilize personal evangelism training for their members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage all Sunday School and/or Bible Study teachers to explain the gospel in every lesson and invite all to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage pastors to incorporate the gospel in every sermon they preach, so that in their sermons they will call unbelievers to be reconciled to God and forgiven of their sins by believing the gospel and repenting of their sins; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage each congregation to support its pastor as he leads in constant and consistent obedience to the Great Commission, both locally and globally, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we urge both churches and individual believers to evangelize daily, intentionally sharing the gospel with unbelievers in our communities, the state of Texas, the nation, and the world.

Resolution two: On the Violation of Religious Liberty within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

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

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

WHEREAS, our Baptist forebears suffered great persecution from civil authorities, including beatings, imprisonment, and death because of their commitment to the inviolable nature of conscience and faith; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects United States citizens from any interference by the Federal Government in their “free exercise” of religion; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services has determined that all health care plans under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) must provide free-of-charge contraceptives and abortion-causing drugs and devices, even if such provisions violate the faith convictions of religious employers, health plan providers, and participants; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and his administration are requiring health plans under PPACA to maintain a separate abortion fund supported by a premium surcharge on health plan participants regardless of their religiously informed convictions about abortion; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has asserted that government has the authority to determine which ministries of a church qualify for First Amendment staffing protections (*Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC*, 2012); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in San Antonio, Texas November 12-13, 2012, steadfastly object to the administration’s efforts to undermine the religious liberty of American citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on President Obama to instruct the Department of Health and Human Services to withdraw its insistence that health care plans provide contraceptives and abortion-causing drugs and devices and instead exempt from this requirement all religious organizations and people of faith, whether in their private capacity or as employers, who declare a religious objection to such coverage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we deplore the establishment of a separate abortion fund in health care plans, which is mandated in the PPACA, as well as the administration’s efforts to require United States citizens to pay for abortion through their health care premiums contrary to the dictates of their faith; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we pledge to continue to defend the God-given and constitutionally guaranteed right of each American citizen to serve God freely in thought, word, and action, according to the dictates of his or her conscience.

Resolution three: On the Sanctity of Life

WHEREAS, the Bible states that the very soul of an individual exists in the womb beginning at conception (Jeremiah 1:5-6; Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1); and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptist Convention is on record in the *Baptist Faith and Message* as affirming our belief that “we should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death”; and

WHEREAS, Texas Southern Baptists have historically accepted the challenge to declare God’s moral standard as a foundation of his good news; and

WHEREAS, the very first resolution passed in the 1998 inaugural meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention was to affirm that life begins at conception and that all human life is created by God and sacred; and

WHEREAS, in the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Justice Harry Blackmun, writing for the majority of justices, stated, “If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant’s case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [14th] Amendment,” thus the court found that the developing fetus was human but not a person and therefore separated humanity and personhood within the womb; and

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states that no state shall ‘deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...’ now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, assembled in San Antonio, Texas, November 12-13, 2012, affirm that the personhood and humanity of the unborn begins at conception; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that all human life in the womb should have protection rights of personhood under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the determination of the governor of Texas and other elected state officials to protect the unborn and their efforts to deny public funding to women’s health providers that have ties with or contribute to abortion services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm and support those states that have a “Personhood Amendment” under consideration; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage our elected Texas legislators to adopt an amendment that would affirm the personhood of the unborn.

Resolution four: On Support for Traditional Marriage

WHEREAS, the marriage covenant, defined in Scripture as being between one man and one woman for life, was created and ordained of God (Genesis 2:15-25; Matthew 19:4-9); and

WHEREAS, the *Baptist Faith and Message* states in Article XVIII, "Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in the covenant commitment"; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, in November of 2008, affirmed this traditional definition of marriage; and

WHEREAS, this traditional view of marriage is under attack from some political leaders, business leaders, and other opinion makers; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has added his voice to these attacks supporting same-sex marriage—a position never before advocated by a sitting U.S. president; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Justice has argued (*Perry v. Schwarzenegger*) that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional claiming that DOMA unfairly discriminates against homosexuals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 12-13 2012, in San Antonio, Texas, do affirm the biblical mandate regarding marriage and sexual morality; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we agree with the Word of God that all presumptuous sins, including all sexual relations outside of marriage, incur the judgment of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we acknowledge that all men are sinners who need God's redeeming love—people with whom we must share God's message of new life in Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we support the right of individuals, churches, institutions, and corporations to express opinions that represent their convictions on any subject they consider pertinent; and be it finally

RESOLVED, because marriage in God's plan is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman for life and an institution established by God, we respectfully implore President Obama, the Congress, and the Department of Justice to recognize and encourage only the traditional definition of marriage.

Resolution five: On Appreciation for Richard D. Land

WHEREAS, Richard D. Land has served Southern Baptists for the past twenty-four years as president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (formerly the Christian Life Commission); and

WHEREAS, Richard Land has consistently led in a concerted effort in behalf of the most helpless members of our society to remove the curse of death from these infants still in the safety of the wombs of their mothers and give them the chance for life; and

WHEREAS, Richard Land has led Southern Baptists in a monumental effort to eliminate vestiges of racism from Southern Baptist life and establish racial justice and equity, and as an effective leader of the Racial Reconciliation Taskforce of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as continuing the movement within our convention and its churches for the implementation of genuine racial reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, Richard Land has served with distinction and effectiveness on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and has been a champion for faithfulness to the First Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing our continued liberty of conscience; and

WHEREAS, Richard Land has fought for the preservation of biblical morality on such matters as the definition of marriage and has labored against a host of other forms of moral decadence in America; and

WHEREAS, Richard Land has faithfully kept our churches aware of crucial moral legislation in the nation's capital as well as in the states and has worked tenaciously to be a perennial voice for justice and morality in our nation's capital; now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in our annual session, November 12-13, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas, record our abiding respect and appreciation for the sacrificial service of Richard and Becky Land; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commend him this day for the consistency of his witness and work in the churches as well as in the halls of government in our nation and throughout the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize the uniqueness of his manifold gifts as historian, statesman, theologian, preacher, and churchman; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we express to him our sense of indebtedness for the incomparable contribution that he has made to the kingdom of our Lord, to the churches of our Southern Baptist Convention, and to the United States of America.

Resolution six: On the Nation of Israel

WHEREAS, God refers to the nation of Israel as “my people” (Exodus 3:7, 10; 7:4, 16; 1 Samuel 9:16; Romans 9:23-29); and

WHEREAS, the national sovereignty of Israel was recognized by the United Nations in 1949; and

WHEREAS, May 14, 2013, will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the modern nation of Israel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 12-13, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas, affirm the right of the nation of Israel to exist; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on the nation of Israel to affirm the rights of all peoples within her borders to their religious views and beliefs; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call on the members of our churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to set aside a day between May 1st and May 21st as a day of prayer for the nation of Israel.

Resolution seven: On Support of our Military and Their Families

WHEREAS, members of the United States military serve and defend our country both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, most of the attention to the military has been directed toward those serving in Afghanistan and the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices they are making have multiple impacts on the stability of their own lives, marriages, and children as they face danger and hardships in performing the duties they have been asked to undertake; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 12-13, express our desire to strongly support the men and women of our armed forces with our prayers and gratitude for their courage, service, and sacrifice for our country and freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will pray for the protection and welfare of their families; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call on every Southern Baptist church in Texas to pray consistently and fervently and to seek ways to encourage and support our military personnel and their families.

Resolution eight: On Support for the Cooperative Program

WHEREAS, cooperation is the organizing and associating of New Testament churches for the purpose of pursuing Christ and His call to missions and discipleship; and

WHEREAS, this unity in gospel ministry and voluntary cooperation resides at the center of the mission of the church, its worship and practice; and since 1845, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention have sought that biblical spirit of harmony and mission; and

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1925, the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention has been the funding vehicle for the undesignated giving of our churches; and

WHEREAS, through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists support approximately 4,870 international missionaries who are engaged in ministry with more than 748 different people groups around the world; and

WHEREAS, the SBC through the Cooperative Program supports over 1,086 new churches planted through the efforts of more than 2,616 North American missionaries, whose efforts are coordinated through our North American Mission Board, state conventions, and associations; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Program makes it possible for six Southern Baptist seminaries to educate more than 16,000 pastors, missionaries, and future church leaders each year; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1998, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has demonstrated a sacrificial commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28: 19-20, Acts 1:8) through commitment to the Cooperation Program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 12-13, 2012, affirm the Cooperative Program as our unrestricted vehicle for funding missions; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we will commit to pray the Lord would make the Cooperative Program a continued basis of unity and mission among the churches in the convention.

Resolution nine: On Appreciation for Castle Hills First Baptist Church

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2012 session of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have enjoyed a time of worship, encouragement, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge God's providence for all of these blessings; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the kind hospitality and generosity of the people of Castle Hills First Baptist Church to host this convention; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the extraordinary commitment, extensive labor, and excellent leadership of Castle Hills First Baptist Church Pastor James Shupp, his church staff, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge that other area churches have also extended hospitality and provided volunteer assistance; and

WHEREAS, we also acknowledge the Lord's work in enabling all our officers, various committees, convention speakers, musicians, convention staff, and messengers to conduct the affairs of this convention with dignity and a Christ-like spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in San Antonio, Texas, November 12-13, 2012, hereby express our profound gratitude to the Lord and to all those he used to bring about a meeting characterized by evangelism, worship, and encouragement.