

2019 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Christopher Graham, Chairman

RESOLUTION ONE: On Appreciation for President Juan Sanchez

WHEREAS, Pastor Juan Sanchez has served as president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention for the years 2018 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, President Sanchez has led our convention with grace, energy, creativity, and integrity, demonstrating a Christ-like spirit; and

WHEREAS, President Sanchez has a heart and vision for our nation and the world, supporting missions causes nationally and internationally through the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, President Sanchez's leadership in evangelism, evidenced by his leadership in the "Who's Your One?" evangelism initiative, has been a great benefit to the churches of our convention; and

WHEREAS, President Sanchez's term as president ends with the conclusion of our 2019 annual meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, express our appreciation to Pastor Juan Sanchez for his service and leadership as convention president and to High Pointe Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, for their generosity in sharing their pastor with our convention.

RESOLUTION TWO: On Appreciation to First Baptist Church of Odessa

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2019 meeting 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 staff and leadership of First Baptist Church of Odessa to host this convention; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge the extensive labor and excellent leadership of the pastor, Byron McWilliams, and his staff; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge that other 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, volunteers, 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 Odessa, Texas, October 28-29, 2019, hereby express our profound gratitude to the Lord, and to all those he used to bring about a meeting characterized by evangelism, worship, and true Christian fellowship.

RESOLUTION THREE: On Appreciation for First Responders to the El Paso and Midland/Odessa Mass Shootings

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2019, a mass shooting event left 22 people killed and 24 wounded in El Paso, Texas; and on August 31, 2019, a separate mass shooting event left 7 people killed, and 25 people wounded in Midland and Odessa, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in the El Paso shooting numerous law enforcement officers from federal, state, county, and local municipalities responded, including off-duty officers voluntarily arriving on the scene, numerous emergency services personnel responding from multiple stations, and hospital staffs; and

WHEREAS, in the Midland and Odessa shootings, over 100 law enforcement officers, including off-duty officers, responded to the emergency call out and numerous emergency services personnel and hospital staffs responded to the activated emergency plan; and

WHEREAS, in both events there were numerous acts of heroism and courage, which included the selfless placing of law enforcement officers between the shooter and the citizenry; and

WHEREAS, in both events the actions of officers ended the shooting events, one in the death of the suspect and one in the apprehension of the suspect, eliminating the threats, and the response of emergency services personnel and hospital staff members saved the lives of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the vocation of the law enforcement officer and the vocation of the emergency services professional is to knowingly and willingly look to the good of their fellow citizens before they look to their own needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 – 29, 2019 express our appreciation and support for the everyday heroes in our midst: our law enforcement professionals, emergency services personnel, and hospital staff members, who daily put the good of others first; and be it further

RESOLVED, that specifically, we recognize the exceptional courage exhibited by the law enforcement officers in stopping the shooters and interceding on behalf of the citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our appreciation for the emergency services and hospital personnel who removed the victims, provided exceptional care, and comforted those who were impacted by both events; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage each church of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to express appreciation to and pray for the law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel, and medical first responders of our communities and our state.

RESOLUTION FOUR: On the “Who’s Your One?” Evangelism Initiative

WHEREAS, God desires that all people would believe in their hearts and confess with their lips that Jesus is Lord, and by so doing find salvation by God’s transforming grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8); and

WHEREAS, God has entrusted Christians with the responsibility of sharing the gospel effectively in order that all people hear the gospel and believe (Romans 10:14; 2 Corinthians 4 – 5); and

WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded his followers to make disciples by sharing the gospel to all nations and has given the Spirit to empower that testimony (Matthew 28:18 – 20; John 17:20 – 21); and

WHEREAS, the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000* says, “It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ” (Article XI); and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention is a cooperative body of churches seeking to extend Christ’s kingdom to the ends of the earth in obedience to the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, the task of reaching over 18 million lost people in Texas alone can be overwhelming to imagine and impossible to accomplish by any one individual or congregation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, reaffirm our commitment to obey the Lord’s command to make disciples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we endorse the “Who’s Your One?” initiative as a useful strategy in recovering the primacy of personal evangelism as the essential means for Christians to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on leaders within the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to start a “Who’s Your One?” campaign within their congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call on members of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to answer the “Who’s Your One?” invitation by praying for, sharing the gospel with, and leading one person to Christ in the next year.

RESOLUTION FIVE: On Legislation Relating to Liability for Disclosing Sexual Misconduct

WHEREAS, God has created every person—male and female—in his own image and with equal value and dignity (Genesis 1:26 – 27); and

WHEREAS, God abhors violence against the weak and defenseless and calls his people to defend the hurt and oppressed (Psalm 82:4), to stand for justice (Psalm 82:3; Proverbs 31:8 – 9), and to deliver victims of abuse from the hands of their oppressors (Proverbs 6:17; 24:10 – 12); and

WHEREAS, the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000* affirms that “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick” (Article XV); and

WHEREAS, recent reports reflect the fact that, for fear of civil retribution, church staff and volunteers have been hesitant to share information that could protect others from sexual predators; and

WHEREAS, during the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas, the House and the Senate unanimously voted to pass HB 4345, relating to liability for disclosing certain information regarding sexual misconduct by an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor of charitable organizations, including churches; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed HB 4345 into law, enacting the *Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code*, Section 84.0066, which, among other things, makes charitable organizations as well as employees, volunteers, and independent contractors of charitable organizations acting in good faith, immune from civil liability for any act to disclose information reasonably believed to be true about an individual who was employed by or served as a volunteer or an independent contractor for the charitable organization or associated charitable organizations to an individual’s current or prospective employer with respect to allegations that the individual:

1. Engaged in sexual misconduct;
2. Sexually abused another individual;
3. Sexually harassed another individual; or
4. Committed a sexual criminal offense;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, hereby express our appreciation to Governor Greg Abbott, Representative Scott Sanford, the Texas House and the Texas Senate, for legislation clearly protecting charitable organizations, as well as their employees, volunteers, and independent contractors, from civil liability for disclosing pertinent information and thus removing a barrier to ending systemic cycles of abuse within churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage other state legislatures to follow the lead set by the Texas legislature, thus removing civil liability risk for those churches and other charitable organizations which seek to protect those most vulnerable; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge all church leaders to become familiar with the *Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code*, Section 84.0066 and to stay abreast of current local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and requirements related to sexual misconduct allegations, including mandatory reporting, information sharing, and victim protections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we implore churches, their staffs, and their members, to share true and factual information with other churches that could prevent sexual predators from preying upon the vulnerable; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage all churches to continue to work to end any and all sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, especially within churches and ministries; and to care well for those who have experienced abuse.

RESOLUTION SIX: On the Prosperity Gospel and its Promotion

WHEREAS, the prosperity gospel is the belief that divine healing and financial wealth are automatic rights in this life for those who believe in Jesus, faith being the presumed means for forcing God to fulfill our desires; and

WHEREAS, the prosperity gospel distorts biblical generosity into selfish expectations of material gain as a return for "sowing seed money"; preying on the most vulnerable and poor, preachers of the prosperity gospel often use their position as a means for personal gain and luxurious living (2 Corinthians 9:10 - 15; 1 Timothy 6:3 - 10); and

WHEREAS, the prosperity gospel is the corruption of biblical doctrines of suffering and the sovereignty of God, leaving those experiencing suffering in a hopeless state of doubt regarding God's favor toward them in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:1 - 5; 8:15 - 29); and

WHEREAS, the prosperity gospel is the minimization of Old Testament promises to mere material possessions, subsequently redefining the purpose of Jesus' atonement as salvation from material poverty; and

WHEREAS, the prosperity gospel has been widely spread and received through various media under the name of Jesus, in Texas and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Lord Jesus and the writers of the New Testament warned the church to "beware of false prophets, who come to us in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15) and warns pastors "to pay careful attention to the flock in which we have been made overseers" because "men will arise speaking twisted things" (Acts 20:28 - 30); and

WHEREAS, we have the biblical example of publicly distinguishing true preachers of the gospel from false teachers (2 Timothy 2:16-18; 3:1 - 8; Titus 1:5 - 16), and

WHEREAS, the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000* states, "In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice ..." (Article XV); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, deny that the promises and the teaching of the prosperity gospel are in accordance with sound doctrine and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pastors, as commanded by Scripture, should not entertain the teaching or promotion of the prosperity gospel or its teachers in their churches and communities, that they should publicly and courageously oppose teachers of the prosperity gospel as occasion requires (Galatians 1:6 - 9; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Jude 3); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we should ask the Lord to search our hearts and ensure that we have no fellowship that involves the "violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word" (*BF&M 2000*, Article XIV); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we should renew our efforts of discipleship, that is, the equipping of the saints, by speaking the truth in love so that the body of Christ will not be deceived (Ephesians 4:11 - 15); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we should pray, asking God to help us endure all suffering and worldly loss, not throwing away our confidence, which has great reward (Hebrews 10:32-39; 13:9 - 14); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we declare and enjoy God himself as our reward, teaching that he is our supreme treasure in heaven and that our inheritance is guaranteed to us by the seal of the Holy Spirit until we acquire possession of it, regardless of our earthly condition (Ephesians 1:11 - 14; 4:15; Revelation 21:1 - 4; Philippians 4:10-13).

RESOLUTION SEVEN: On Racial Reconciliation

WHEREAS, being people of faith in God and holding the Bible to be God's authoritative Word, we believe that God created Adam and Eve as the first human beings to reflect his image in this world and fill the whole earth with godly offspring (Genesis 1:26 - 28); and

WHEREAS, God continues to create all human beings in his image and Christ died for every human being; therefore, every human being—regardless of ethnicity, age, or gender—possesses full dignity, value, and equality (Genesis 9:6; *Baptist Faith & Message 2000*, Article III); and

WHEREAS, God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34 - 35) and Revelation 5:9 - 10 tells of one people purchased by the blood of Christ "from every tribe and language and people and nation . . . a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth"; and

WHEREAS, God's covenant through time has been to bring blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 56:7-8; Ephesians 3:6); and

WHEREAS, all have access through one Spirit to the Father, and all who in Christ as fellow citizens with the saints, members of the household of God, and are being built into one dwelling place for God (Ephesians 2:14 - 18; Galatians 3:27- 29; Romans 2:26 - 29); and

WHEREAS, God will receive a multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages to worship him (Revelation 7:9 - 10); and

WHEREAS, the Great Commission is a command to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19); and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 400 identified ethno-linguistic groups in the state of Texas which need to hear the gospel; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, affirm that God has a plan for every nation to be redeemed by the Father and reconciled to himself and to one another; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our love for all people of every ethnicity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we condemn prejudice as unworthy of the people of God and an offense to the image of God in all men and women; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we condemn any action which is racist in nature or intent; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches and individuals to foster an atmosphere of reconciliation between all the nations of man whose maker is God, the creator; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commend continuing efforts to make the representative diversity of our convention be reflected in convention committee and leadership structures; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to consider ways in which their church committees and leadership structures can accurately reflect the ethnic diversity within their congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we acknowledge and affirm the work of churches performing multi-ethnic church ministry in Texas; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to increase the ways in which they minister to all ethnicities so that God will be glorified through the praises of the multitude from every tribe and language and people and nation.

RESOLUTION EIGHT: On Mental Health, the Local Church, and the Need for Gospel Compassion

WHEREAS, the inerrant Word declares that God created man and woman in his image, and that humanity is fearfully and wonderfully made, being formed by him in the womb resulting in the intrinsic value of human life in all its dimensions; and

WHEREAS, Adam and Eve rebelled against their Creator, resulting in the fall of the entire human race, affecting every facet of the whole person, subjecting mankind to various kinds of mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, many Christians experience mental health struggles and the local church is called to minister to members who struggle with mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, many who struggle with mental and emotional concerns often feel isolated and rejected, sometimes turning to self-mutilation, self-medication, and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, Jesus cares deeply for the broken, hurting, and downtrodden, calling the sick to come to him through the gospel that offers hope, restoration, peace, and grace; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Odessa, Texas, October 28 - 29, 2019, affirm those who struggle with mental health disorders as people created in the image of God, be it further

RESOLVED, that as ambassadors for Christ we will show compassion, love, and empathy toward those who struggle with mental health disorders and that we oppose any stigma attached to those who struggle with mental illness; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will minister to individuals who experience mental and emotional trauma, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our churches should provide a safe place for conversation regarding mental health struggles for their members and communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we acknowledge Christian and biblical counseling are means by which those who experience mental health struggles can receive treatment beyond the local church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we also acknowledge that medical and mental health professionals are trained to provide wise and helpful tools as a means of God's common grace for those who experience mental and emotional pain; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that eternal and lasting peace for our broken condition is ultimately through faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the hope of his glorious return.