

SBTC ANNUAL MEETING

Resolutions

2023 REPORT



RESOLUTION 1

On Appreciation for President Todd Kaunitz

WHEREAS, President Todd Kaunitz has served the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as president for the years 2022 and 2023; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has led the convention to consider God's grace toward us in the past and charged us to embrace the task that lies before us; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has emphasized the priority of prayer through his diligent leadership; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has modeled a Christlike example and lived a life of unwavering faith; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has led the convention to seek unity by calling us to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS, the Kaunitz family has graciously served the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention by supporting President Kaunitz; and

WHEREAS, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, has generously shared President Kaunitz with this convention; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz's time as convention president will come to an end upon the final gavel of this annual meeting Nov. 14, 2023; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Euless, Texas, Nov.13-14, 2023, express our profound gratitude to President Kaunitz for his service and leadership as convention president that has been characterized by grace, prayer, and encouragement.

RESOLUTION 2

On Appreciation for Cross City Church, Euless, Texas

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2023 meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have enjoyed a time of worship, encouragement, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, God's providential guidance has been evident during this annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, Pastor John Meador, his staff and the members of Cross City Church in Euless, Texas, have shown hospitality and generosity to the convention's messengers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Euless, Texas, Nov. 13-14, 2023, express our profound gratitude to Cross City Church for their support, service, and generosity to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

RESOLUTION 3

On Prayer for Israel and the Middle East

WHEREAS, all people are created in the image of God and the loss of any life is grievous (Genesis 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Article XVI affirms the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness; and

WHEREAS, Christians should do all in their power to put an end to war; and

WHEREAS, the true remedy to war is the gospel of our Lord, the supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations and the practical application of His law of love; and

WHEREAS, we should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace; and

WHEREAS, we grieve war and acts of aggression in the world; and

WHEREAS, acts of aggression and terrorism took place against the vulnerable in Israel beginning on Oct. 7, 2023, reminding us of our need to pray for peace; and

WHEREAS, a result of these attacks, many people will suffer violence, loss, and injustice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Euless, Texas, Nov. 13-14, 2023, lament the recent terrorist attacks against Israel and the subsequent unrest in the Middle East; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention affirm the dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians as those made in the image of God and that salvation is available for all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:3-5); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, pray for all governing authorities, for flourishing and peace for the nation of Israel and for Palestinians in the Middle East (Psalm 122:6), and for the eradication of evil and the prospering of Christ's Kingdom in all the world (1 Peter 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:1-2).

RESOLUTION 4

On Cooperation

WHEREAS, Christ prays in John 17 that believers would be unified with one another, stating, “May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you,” and Scripture likewise reminds believers that “the body is not one member, but many” (1 Corinthians 1:10), urging them toward unity and cooperation, “being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose” (Philippians 2:2); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 affirms that “Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes” (Article VI), emphasizing the autonomy of each local church in its operations and governance; and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 also states that “Christ’s people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches” (Article XIV); and

WHEREAS, Baptists have historically sought cooperation with one another for kingdom purposes; and

WHEREAS, for 25 years, cooperative efforts of the churches of The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have benefited kingdom efforts in Texas, North America, and the world resulting in a greater impact for the Great Commission than any church alone; and

WHEREAS, the urgency of reaching Texas and the nations with the gospel has only increased; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, gathered in Euless, Texas, Nov. 13-14, 2023, proclaims its unwavering desire and commitment for our churches to work hand in hand, transcending tertiary differences, and uniting behind Christ’s command to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to a spirit of trust, love, and brotherly affection toward those in our convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we celebrate the confessional unity of our churches without requiring strict uniformity in theological matters beyond our confession of faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our churches, while maintaining their autonomy, also embrace the invaluable strength found in our cooperative effort, striving together for the spread of the gospel and for the glory of God; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention reaffirm our commitment to gospel cooperation and acknowledge that far more unites us than divides us, recognizing that the pursuit of the Great Commission is the highest and most worthy calling in the world.