SBTC ANNUAL MEETING

Resolutions

2026 REPORT

Resolutions Committee REPORT

RESOLUTION 1

On Appreciation for First Baptist Church Forney

WHEREAS, the Philippian church was praised for its partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:3-5); and

WHEREAS, under the providential guidance of God, the messengers to the 2026 annual meeting of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have worked together in unity for the sake of the gospel; and

WHEREAS, messengers are committed to moving forward together as mobilized churches to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Nathan Lino and the staff, leadership, and volunteers of First Baptist Church Forney have shown gracious hospitality to the convention's messengers to enable them to unite in this mission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Forney, Texas, October 26-27, 2026, express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Pastor Lino and the staff, leadership, and volunteers of First Baptist Church Forney for their hospitality, service, and generosity.

RESOLUTION 2

On Appreciation for President Caleb Turner

WHEREAS, Scripture calls us to esteem and respect those who labor among us because of their work (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13); and

WHEREAS, Caleb Turner has served the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as president since Oct. 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, President Turner has faithfully led the convention with strength of character, wisdom, and grace; and

WHEREAS, President Turner has called the convention's attention to seeking the presence of God, relying on God's power to make a difference, and the value of generational leadership and unity; and
WHEREAS, Mrs. Tamera Turner has consistently supported her husband and has been an integral part of his service to the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; and

WHEREAS, Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas, has been gracious and patient in sharing President Turner with this convention so that he may accomplish his duties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Forney, Texas, Oct. 26-27, 2026, express our appreciation to President Caleb Turner for his service and leadership; to Mrs. Turner for her support; and to Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church, for its generosity in sharing President Turner with our convention.

RESOLUTION 3

On the 25th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that every human being is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), that human life is a sacred gift, and that Christians are commanded to love their neighbors, pursue justice, show mercy, and pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:44) ; and

WHEREAS, 25 years ago, on Sept. 11, 2001, the United States of America suffered a coordinated attack in which terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes, deliberately crashing them, resulting in the deaths of 2,977 people, leaving families, churches, communities, and families to grieve an unprecedented loss; and

WHEREAS, the 25 years since Sept. 11, 2001, have demonstrated both the terrible consequences of terrorism and the courage, sacrifice, compassion, and service of countless ordinary people who responded to extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the passage of twenty-five years creates a responsibility to preserve the memory of Sept. 11 for future generations, and to reflect upon the lessons of courage, sacrifice, service, unity, compassion, and the sacredness of human life; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ commands His followers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9), to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21), to pray for kings and all who are in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2), and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, directs our hearts beyond earthly kingdoms and temporal security toward the sovereign God who alone is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1-2) and toward Jesus Christ, the hope of the nations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Forney, Texas, Oct. 26-27, 2026, solemnly commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and reaffirm our commitment to remember those who lost their lives and the countless people whose lives were forever changed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we continue to pray for the families of those who were killed, for survivors, and for those who continue to suffer from 9/11-related injuries and illnesses, and for all those who continue to bear the marks of that day; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we continue to unwaveringly denounce acts of terrorism and barbarism as an attack on humanity and those created in the image of God; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that 25 years after Sept. 11, 2001, we solemnly declare we will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, remember the fallen, honor those who served, care for those who still suffer, pursue peace, oppose evil, love our neighbors, pray for our enemies, and place our ultimate confidence not in earthly power but in the power of our sovereign God and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose kingdom cannot be shaken.

RESOLUTION 4

On the Proper Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Christian Ministry

WHEREAS, God is sovereign over all creation, human endeavor, and technological development, and nothing occurs outside His knowledge, authority, and providential rule (Psalm 103:19; Colossians 1:16–17); and

WHEREAS, God is the source of all truth, beauty, and goodness, and true wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7) rather than with human tradition, technological innovation, or the accumulation of information; and

WHEREAS, mankind is uniquely created in the image and likeness of God and holds a dignity and calling which cannot be reduced to computational processes, including the ability to bear moral responsibility, to engage in relational interaction, to worship, and to know God personally (Genesis 1:26–27; 2:7); and

WHEREAS, pastoral ministry and biblical counseling require compassion, spiritual discernment, personal presence, and the wise application of God's Word to specific circumstances of individual lives, none of which can be reduced to systematic algorithms; and

WHEREAS, AI provides considerable opportunities for human advancement, prosperity, and service, while raising substantial ethical questions about human dignity, truth, privacy, responsibility, relationships, work, and the nature of human community; and

WHEREAS, AI is not an impartial tool, and is designed for particular purposes that can shape human desires, habits, relationships, and understandings of reality, and may produce both intended and unintended consequences; and

WHEREAS, the use of AI does not always reflect the goals of Christian ministry, which include the proclamation of the gospel, the making of disciples, the cultivation of Christian virtue and wisdom, the formation of Christlike character, and the loving care of people; and

WHEREAS, godly and biblical wisdom cannot be obtained through speed, efficiency, vast information, or technological capability alone, but is cultivated through the fear of the Lord, faithful obedience, spiritual maturity, prayer, Scripture, and life together in Christian community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church Forney on Oct. 26-27, 2026, affirm that Jesus Christ our savior, rather than AI, exemplifies what it means to be fully human and that all knowledge fulfills its true purpose in worship, obedience, and communion with God; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage believers to preserve and cultivate the practices through which biblical wisdom and Christian maturity are formed, including the study of Scripture, prayer, worship, discipleship, participation in the local church, and authentic relationships with other believers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that AI may enhance human productivity, but it cannot produce the wisdom, holiness, spiritual maturity, or Christlikeness that characterize human beings redeemed by Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage Christians to assess AI in light of biblical principles and biblical truth rather than innovation, efficiency, convenience, or cultural pressure, acknowledging that just because something is technologically possible does not mean it is wise, beneficial, or faithful (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23); and be it further

RESOLVED, in the spirit of 2 Timothy 2:15, that we encourage pastors and ministry leaders to exercise diligence rather than dependence on AI in sermon preparation, teaching, administration, or other ministry functions. This maintains personal responsibility for the truthfulness, theological faithfulness, pastoral appropriateness, and integrity of the resulting work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to preserve the centrality of Scripture and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, recognizing AI cannot replace the authority of God's Word, the pastoral office, Christian discipleship, prayer, corporate worship, or the embodied fellowship of the local church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage Christians to practice truthfulness and integrity when using AI. This includes appropriate transparency about AI-generated or AI-assisted content and rejecting deception, plagiarism, fabrication, impersonation, and intentional dissemination of falsehood; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize the undiscerning use of AI can form ungodly habits, desires, expectations, and patterns of thought, and we thus encourage Christians to consider not only what AI helps them accomplish but also how it may be shaping them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches and ministry leaders to exercise appropriate care in protecting confidential, personal, financial, and pastoral information when utilizing AI, recognizing their responsibility to safeguard information entrusted to them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage the wise and faithful use of AI in a manner which honors God, recognizes the inherent value and dignity of every person, strengthens Christian community, cultivates virtue and wisdom, and keeps the church's ultimate purposes centered on knowing God, loving our neighbors, making disciples, and faithfully proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we affirm that the mission of local churches remains unchanged, irrespective of technological advancement; we will continue to glorify God, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, make disciples of all nations, love our neighbors, and faithfully live according to the Word of God (Matthew 22:37-39; 28:18-20), using every legitimate means available while recognizing that AI can serve as a valuable tool, provided that it does not compromise the human, relational, and spiritual realities at the heart of Christian ministry.

RESOLUTION 5

On The Protection of Children and The Responsibility of Churches

WHEREAS, every human being is created in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity and worth (Genesis 1:26–27); and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ demonstrated particular concern for children, welcoming them and warning against causing them to stumble (Matthew 18:5–6; Mark 9:36–37); and

WHEREAS, Scripture commands God's people to defend the vulnerable, seek justice, and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves (Psalm 82:3–4; Proverbs 31:8–9; Isaiah 1:17); and

WHEREAS, those entrusted with the care of others are accountable before God for their stewardship, and Scripture warns shepherds against exploiting those placed under their care (Ezekiel 34:1–4; 1 Peter 5:2–3); and

WHEREAS, the church is called to walk in truth, expose the works of darkness, and refuse to conceal wrongdoing (Proverbs 28:13; Ephesians 4:25; 5:11–14); and

WHEREAS, God has established civil authorities to restrain evil and punish wrongdoing (Romans 13:1–4), and churches therefore must not assume the role of law enforcement or prevent appropriate authorities from carrying out their God-given responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, churches, Christian schools, and other ministries entrusted with the care of children bear a solemn responsibility before God to provide environments in which children are protected from abuse, exploitation, and other forms of harm; and

WHEREAS, institutional reputation, financial interests, organizational convenience, or personal relationships must never take precedence over the safety and well-being of children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Forney, Texas, Oct. 26-27, 2026, reaffirm that the protection of children is a biblical responsibility flowing from the character of God, the example of Christ, and the church's calling to pursue justice and love our neighbors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that recognizing the autonomy of each local church, we urge churches and other ministries serving children to establish and regularly review child protection policies appropriate to their ministries, addressing matters such as screening, background checks, supervision, transportation and communication safeguards, and procedures for responding to concerns; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge churches and ministries to provide regular training for pastors, staff, teachers, coaches, and volunteers regarding the recognition and prevention of abuse, exploitation, grooming, and other inappropriate conduct; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge churches and ministries to respond promptly and appropriately to allegations or reasonable suspicions of child abuse or other serious misconduct and to comply with all applicable reporting laws, recognizing that reporting suspected child abuse to appropriate, civil authorities is consistent with Christian justice, love for the vulnerable, and submission to God's established authorities (Romans 13:1-4); and be it further

RESOLVED, that no church policy, organizational structure, employment relationship, confidentiality expectation, concern for institutional reputation, or internal process should be used to prevent, delay, or discourage a report that is required by applicable law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to care compassionately for those who have experienced abuse, to protect them from retaliation, to take their reports seriously, and when appropriate, to assist them in identifying pastoral, legal, counseling, and other professional resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon pastors and Christian leaders to exercise authority with humility and integrity, remembering that they are shepherds accountable to Christ and must never use their position to manipulate, intimidate, exploit, or silence those entrusted to their care (1 Peter 5:2–3); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call upon the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention to examine their own practices prayerfully and honestly, seeking to become churches where children are protected, victims are compassionately cared for, wrongdoing is brought into the light, justice is pursued, and the character of Jesus Christ is faithfully displayed.