

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

ORLANDO

ANNUAL  MEETING
2026

On the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the Baptist Contribution to Religious Liberty

1. WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded on July 4, 1776, with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which recognized the fundamental truth that all people are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, thus establishing a new nation committed to ordered liberty and the rule of law; and
2. WHEREAS, The American founders understood these rights are given by God and secured by government and further comprehended the importance of Christianity to the framing and flourishing of the new republic (Romans 13:1-7); and
3. WHEREAS, The freedoms enshrined in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights—particularly the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech—have enabled the free and open proclamation of the gospel at home and abroad; and
4. WHEREAS, Baptist leaders such as Isaac Backus, John Leland, and others played a vital role in advocating for religious liberty, contributing to the development and eventual adoption of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees the free exercise of religion and prohibits the establishment of a state church; and
5. WHEREAS, Baptists have historically affirmed that religious liberty is not merely a political principle (such as a “wall of separation”) but a biblical conviction rooted in the teaching that every individual is accountable to God and must be free to respond to Him without coercion from the state (Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19-20, 17:26-27; Romans 14:12); and
6. WHEREAS, 2026 will mark the semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the founding of the United States, a historic milestone to remember and reflect upon God’s providential blessings and sovereign hand throughout the nation’s history; and
7. WHEREAS, We recognize the many challenges and shortcomings in our national history, including sins such as slavery, racism, abortion, injustice, and sexual immorality, and affirm the continuing need for national repentance, reconciliation, and revival through the transforming power of the gospel; and
8. WHEREAS, despite its failures the United States increasingly realized the promise of its founding by ending slavery and segregation at home and defending freedom from the 20th century totalitarian threats of fascism and communism abroad; and
9. WHEREAS, Scripture exhorts believers to honor governing authorities, to seek the welfare of the cities and nations in which they dwell, and to pray for kings and all who are in authority (Jeremiah 29:7; Romans 13:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-2); and

10. WHEREAS, The semiquincentennial provides an opportunity for Southern Baptists to express gratitude to God for His blessings, to renew our commitment to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to stand for truth, righteousness, and justice in the public square; now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, give thanks to Almighty God for his providential hand in the founding and sustaining of the United States of America over the past 250 years; and be it further
2. RESOLVED, That we urge Southern Baptists and all faithful Christians to pray for spiritual revival across the nation; and be it further
3. RESOLVED, That we honor the legacy of Baptist forebears who courageously contended for religious liberty and helped secure the freedoms enshrined in the First Amendment; and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our historic Baptist commitment to religious liberty for all people, recognizing it as a God-given right grounded in the dignity of every human being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27-28); and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we call upon Southern Baptists to steward these freedoms by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, living as faithful citizens of both the kingdom of God and the United States, and engaging the public square with both courage and civility; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we call upon Southern Baptists to pursue national renewal through biblically informed civic engagement, including advocating for just laws that are rooted in God's natural law and consistent with the witness of holy Scripture, and electing public officials who will do the same; and be it further
7. RESOLVED, That we urge our churches to pray for national, state, and local leaders, that we may live peaceful and godly lives (1 Timothy 2:2); and be it finally
8. RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves anew to the Great Commission, recognizing that the ultimate hope for America and all nations is in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, whose kingdom will never end.



On Appreciation for the City of Orlando

1. WHEREAS, The messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention have gathered in Orlando, Florida, June 7-10, 2026, for the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting and Pastors' Conference; and
 2. WHEREAS, The city of Orlando has warmly welcomed Southern Baptists with hospitality, professionalism, and a spirit of service; and
 3. WHEREAS, The Orange County Convention Center has provided an excellent venue for the business, fellowship, and ministry opportunities of this annual meeting; and
 4. WHEREAS, Local civic leaders, public safety personnel, and volunteers have contributed to a safe and orderly environment for all who attended; and
 5. WHEREAS, Visit Orlando and numerous local partners have assisted in coordinating logistics, accommodations, and services that have enhanced the experience of our messengers and guests; and
 6. WHEREAS, Churches of the Florida Baptist Convention have faithfully served through prayer, volunteerism, and a shared commitment to advance the gospel; and
 7. WHEREAS, Orlando represents a city of many cultures, languages, and peoples, reminding us of the biblical vision of "a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9); now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, express their sincere appreciation to the city of Orlando for its gracious hospitality; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we extend our gratitude to the leadership and staff of the Orange County Convention Center, Visit Orlando, local hotels, and all who have worked diligently behind the scenes to make this gathering possible; and be it further
 3. RESOLVED, That we thank God for the diversity of peoples and cultures represented both in this host city and among our churches, and we recommit ourselves to the Great Commission, seeking to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20); and be it further
 4. RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the opportunity to gather as we affirm our desire to be a force for good for the sake of the gospel, bearing faithful witness to Jesus Christ through our cooperative mission together; and be it further
 5. RESOLVED, That we commend the people of Orlando and the Central Florida region to the grace of God, praying that the gospel of Jesus Christ would continue to bear fruit in this city and beyond.



On the Church's Opportunity for Evangelism, Discipleship, and Care for Persons with Disabilities and Their Families

1. WHEREAS, Scripture clearly teaches and *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* affirms that every human being is made in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity and worth, undiminished by physical, intellectual, or developmental differences (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16; James 3:9); and
2. WHEREAS, God the Father desires that all would come to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and Jesus commands us to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything [He has] commanded . . .” (Matthew 28:19-20); and
3. WHEREAS, Families of children, youth, and adults with physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities often face persistent challenges, including social isolation and the physical exhaustion of caregiving; and
4. WHEREAS, Research suggests that families of those with disabilities are significantly less likely to attend church regularly due to a lack of accessibility, programming, or sense of belonging; and
5. WHEREAS, Jesus calls us to welcome, love, protect, honor, and serve those devalued and pushed to the margins of society (Leviticus 19:14; Luke 14:12-14; Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 12:22-26); and
6. WHEREAS, Every Southern Baptist church has an opportunity to extend love, hospitality, and pastoral care to those inside the church and gospel witness to those outside the church by providing or expanding spiritual and practical ministry to those with disabilities and their families; and
7. WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's Disability Ministry Task Force, reporting at the 2026 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, calls each church and Southern Baptist Convention entity to the same; now, therefore, be it
 1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, call upon churches to welcome joyfully every person regardless of physical, developmental, or intellectual capacity; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we call upon Southern Baptists to model speech that is compassionate, truthful, and honoring to fellow image bearers; and be it further
 3. RESOLVED, That we urge Southern Baptist churches of every size and in every community to develop or expand plans for inclusion of children, youth, and adults with disabilities so as to ensure that no family is forced to choose between the particular needs of a family member and the fellowship of the church; and be it further

4. RESOLVED, That we encourage churches to evaluate their facilities to identify barriers to access for those with physical limitations and to act with hospitality to reduce or eliminate those barriers to the greatest degree practical (Mark 2:1-12); and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we exhort our seminaries, entities, state conventions, and associations to highlight the need for churches and their leaders to have the training, skills, and resources needed to care compassionately for families navigating the complexities of special needs; and be it finally
6. RESOLVED, That by providing excellent care for those with disabilities and their families, our churches will be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ to a watching world to see how Southern Baptists treat all people with dignity and respect.



On Assisted Suicide and the Sanctity of Life

1. WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that God, the Author of life, created all human beings in his image and declares human life to be sacred and worthy of protection from conception until natural death (Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 20:13; Job 14:5; Psalm 139:13,16; Jeremiah 1:5; Acts 17:28; James 3:9); and
2. WHEREAS, This Convention has previously warned against the emergence of a “culture of death,” and recent legal and cultural developments demonstrate that this concern remains urgently relevant (“Resolution on Assisted Suicide,” 1996); and
3. WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention has consistently affirmed in resolutions adopted in 1992, 1996, and 2001, the sanctity of human life and has opposed euthanasia and assisted suicide, which are distinct from difficult medical decisions that may need to be made upon the approach of natural death; and
4. WHEREAS, In the years since those resolutions, the practice of assisted suicide has expanded significantly in the United States and is now legal in at least thirteen states and the District of Columbia, with most of these laws enacted in the past decade and several adopted in just the last few years; and
5. WHEREAS, Since the last annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, additional states, including some of the nation’s largest, have enacted or announced plans to enact such laws, demonstrating the accelerating normalization of assisted suicide; and
6. WHEREAS, Advocates of these laws often appeal to concepts such as autonomy, compassion, dignity, and the alleviation of suffering, while reframing assisted suicide as a form of medical care rather than the intentional ending of human life; and
7. WHEREAS, Experience in other countries demonstrates that such practices do not remain limited, but instead expand over time, as seen in Canada and in European nations such as the Netherlands, where initial safeguards have eroded and eligibility has broadened to include additional categories of patients; and
8. WHEREAS, These developments confirm that so-called safeguards are often temporary, as worldviews that reject a biblical view of personhood and of suffering ultimately erode meaningful limits on the taking of human life; and
9. WHEREAS, Scripture recognizes both the evil of personal suffering and the good of God’s redemptive purposes in it (Romans 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 1:9, 12:7-10; James 1:2-4); and
10. WHEREAS, The intentional ending of innocent human life, whether by oneself or with the assistance of another, is contrary to biblical teaching and undermines the dignity and worth of every human being; now, therefore, be it

1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death, recognizing that every human being bears the image of God and is therefore deserving of protection, dignity, and care; and be it further
2. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our continued opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide in all its forms, including practices now described as “medical aid in dying” and “death with dignity,” which intentionally seek to end human life; and be it further
3. RESOLVED, That we reject the rebranding of assisted suicide through euphemistic language that obscures the moral reality of intentionally ending human life, misleads the public regarding the nature of these practices, and diminishes the tragedy of all suicides; and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we warn that the legalization of assisted suicide leads to the expansion of such practices beyond their original limits, placing the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations at increased risk of coercion, neglect, and devaluation; and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we call upon federal, state, and local governments to uphold laws that protect human life, to resist efforts to legalize or expand assisted suicide, and to promote policies that affirm the inherent dignity and worth of every person; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we urge medical professionals, healthcare institutions, and policymakers to prioritize ethical care that affirms the dignity of every patient, including effective pain management, hospice care, and palliative support, rather than interventions that intentionally cause death; and be it further
7. RESOLVED, That we call upon Southern Baptist pastors, churches, and families to provide compassionate, faithful presence to those who are suffering both physically and mentally, offering emotional, spiritual, and practical care that reflects the love of Christ and affirms the value of every life, even in its most fragile stages (Romans 12:15-16; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4); and be it finally
8. RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to bearing clear and faithful witness in the public square to a biblical ethic of life, proclaiming the hope of the gospel, which affirms both the dignity of every human life and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15).



On Political Violence and Speech

1. WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that every human being is made in the image of God and therefore possesses inherent dignity and worth, and that the taking of innocent life is an offense against the Creator (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6; Exodus 20:13; James 3:9); and
2. WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his followers to love their neighbors, to love even their enemies, to pray for those who persecute them, to pursue peace with all people, and to overcome evil with good (Matthew 5:9,38-48, 22:39; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:14-21); and
3. WHEREAS, *The Baptist Faith and Message* 2000 states that Christians should “contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death” (Article XV), that “it is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness,” that “the true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord,” and that Christians should “pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace” (Article XVI); and
4. WHEREAS, The use or threat of violence for political ends assaults the sanctity of human life, the rule of law, ordered liberty, freedom of conscience, and the peaceful pursuit of justice, and includes recent events, such as assassinations and attempted assassinations of public figures, the harassment and even murder of fellow citizens in houses of worship, vandalism of crisis pregnancy centers, and public mayhem that sows chaos and destruction; and
5. WHEREAS, Dehumanizing rhetoric, reckless accusations, slander, and the normalization of hatred and contempt can harden consciences, inflame passions, and make violence more palatable in public life (Proverbs 10:18, 12:18, 16:28; Ephesians 4:29-32; James 3:5-10); and
6. WHEREAS, Scripture calls Christians to speak the truth in love, to be quick to hear and slow to anger, to serve as ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors for Christ, and to display the fruit of the Spirit even amid disagreement (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:3,15; James 1:19-20); and
7. WHEREAS, Polarization becomes toxic when spirited disagreements shift from biblical convictions and beliefs to spurious judgments about the character, motives, or humanity of opponents, fostering suspicion, contempt, fear, and hostility that damage the Christian witness, public morality, and peace in civic life; and
8. WHEREAS, The church’s weapons are not carnal but spiritual, and *The Baptist Faith and Message* 2000 affirms that Christians are to make the will of Christ supreme in society by advancing the gospel through faithful proclamation, principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love rather than through coercion or violence (Article XV; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5); and

9. WHEREAS, Faithful Christian citizenship includes the stewardship of engagement in public life through voting, advocacy, peaceful assembly, lawful protest, and other upright means, while refusing political idolatry and remembering that our ultimate allegiance is to the kingdom of God and not to any party, candidate, or earthly movement (Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4); now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, unequivocally condemn political violence in all its forms, including assassinations, attempted assassinations, terrorism, rioting, mob intimidation, vandalism, threats, and coercion as morally evil, contrary to the sanctity of human life, destructive of ordered liberty, eroding equal protection and the rule of law, and incompatible with the way of Christ, regardless of the ideology, identity, party, or cause of the perpetrator or victim; and be it further
2. RESOLVED, That we reject any claim that righteous ends justify unrighteous means, affirming that the cause of truth is never served by lies, the cause of justice is never served by lawlessness, and the cause of life is never served by murder (James 1:19-20); and be it further
3. RESOLVED, That we reject hatred, malice, slander, dehumanization, intimidation, reckless speech, and contemptible conduct as inconsistent with Christian discipleship, while also rejecting a false peace that refuses necessary truth (2 Timothy 2:22-26); and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we call Southern Baptists to examine our own speech, online conduct, and public witness, refusing to treat image bearers as enemies to be destroyed rather than neighbors to be loved and won to the truth of God's Word, and refusing to derive primary identity from political affiliation rather than from union with Christ; and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we urge pastors, churches, parents, and ministry leaders to disciple believers toward faithful Christian citizenship marked by truthfulness, moral clarity, courage, humility, love of neighbor, patience, prayer, and self-control, teaching the next generation that conviction does not require toxic contempt and that Christian faithfulness requires both truth and love (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6); and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we call on elected officials, candidates, political parties, media figures, and all public leaders to condemn political violence consistently and to protect the lives and safety of citizens, public servants, houses of worship, and other vulnerable institutions while preserving constitutional liberties; and be it further
7. RESOLVED, That we affirm the important role of law enforcement to maintain civil order as servants of God who punish evil and protect the innocent (Romans 13:4); and be it further
8. RESOLVED, That we commit to pray diligently for governing authorities at every level, including those with whom we disagree (1 Timothy 2:1-2); and be it further

9. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm that the church's mission is advanced not by force but by the proclamation of the gospel, the ministry of the Word, prayer, and the visible witness of regenerate believers, and that the gospel of Jesus Christ alone transforms hearts of hatred into love for God and neighbor (Matthew 28:18-20; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 1 Peter 2:9-12); and be it finally
10. RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to live as ambassadors for Christ and peacemakers in a divided world, proclaiming the gospel of reconciliation as the only true hope for individuals, churches, and nations until Christ returns as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 5:9).



On Antisemitism

1. WHEREAS, Since the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023, antisemitism has surged across the United States and the world, manifesting in physical violence, harassment, university campus glorification of terrorism, and a broad aggression directed at Jewish people; and
 2. WHEREAS, This rising hatred includes conspiracy theories perpetuated online and through social media, falsely accusing the Jewish people as a whole of controlling media, finance, politics, weather, and culture for sinister ends that are modern echoes of historic libels that have incited persecution for centuries; and
 3. WHEREAS, Such conspiracy theories and condemnations of the Jewish people are contrary to the truth and the clear teaching of Scripture regarding human dignity; and
 4. WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have historically expressed our profound gratitude for the Jewish people and have consistently condemned antisemitism as unchristian and contrary to the gospel; and
 5. WHEREAS, God chose Abraham and his descendants for his redemptive purpose; to them he gave the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the law, the worship, and the promises, all of which are fulfilled in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Genesis 12, 15, 17; Luke 24; Romans 9:4-5); and
 6. WHEREAS, God maintains his purpose for and promise to the Jewish people as revealed in Scripture; salvation is “from the Jews” (John 4:22); the gospel is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16-17); and God will by his grace bring his chosen remnant of Israel to salvation through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham (Romans 9:1-5, 11:24-32; Galatians 3:16); now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, unequivocally condemn this new surge of antisemitism in all its forms, including violence, cultural hatred, and conspiracy theories of Jewish controlled cabals, as sinful, unchristian, and an assault on both biblical truth and basic human dignity; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we stand unashamedly with the Jewish people against all such hatred, including all acts of terror against them worldwide; and be it further
 3. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our love for the Jewish people as those “loved because of the patriarchs” (Romans 11:28), and our commitment to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to them with urgency, respect, and boldness, as part of our obedience to the Great Commission; and be it further
 4. RESOLVED, That we call upon Southern Baptists to combat antisemitism in our churches and communities through biblical teaching, personal friendship with Jewish neighbors, courageous

public witness, and prayer for the peace of Jerusalem and the salvation of Israel (Psalm 122:6);
and be it finally

5. RESOLVED, That we affirm God's love and offer of salvation through Jesus Christ to all people without distinction, while rejecting every form of ethnic or religious hatred and upholding religious liberty for all and praying for the day when "all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26) when true peace comes through the glorious and triumphal return of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16).



On Immigration, Human Dignity, and the Rule of Law

1. WHEREAS, God created every human being in his image and calls his people to show justice, mercy, hospitality, and love toward the vulnerable and the stranger, affirming the worth and dignity of every person regardless of ethnicity or national origin (Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Leviticus 19:34; Matthew 25:35; Ephesians 2:14-19); and
 2. WHEREAS, For more than eighty years the Southern Baptist Convention has addressed refugees, displaced persons, immigrants, and those fleeing war, persecution, atrocities, and genocide by affirming both compassionate ministry and the responsibility of governments to maintain lawful order, secure borders, and implement humane immigration systems (Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8; Romans 13:1-7); and
 3. WHEREAS, Southern Baptists reject racism, nativism, ethnic supremacy, and dehumanizing rhetoric, affirming that Scripture alone defines our identity, worth, and unity in Christ and that no person bearing the image of God should be reduced to a slur, statistic, or political problem (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 4:6; James 2:1-4); and
 4. WHEREAS, Large-scale and often disorderly migration has strained communities, harmed migrants and American citizens, and diminished confidence in the rule of law, underscoring the need for immigration systems marked by order, clarity, due process, timely adjudication, integrity in asylum processes, fairness, and humane enforcement (Proverbs 31:8-9; Zechariah 7:9-10); and
 5. WHEREAS, While immigration through means that violate American law has been and continues to be a problem, many immigrants and refugees have carefully followed the proper procedures for entering the nation lawfully; and
 6. WHEREAS, Southern Baptist churches include men and women of numerous ethnicities and are positioned to bear faithful gospel witness through ministries of hospitality, discipleship, practical service, and Christ-centered community that strengthen both Great Commission effectiveness and the peace of our communities (Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:2; Revelation 7:9); and
 7. WHEREAS, Leaders representing diverse Southern Baptist ethnic fellowships have recently affirmed the importance of compassionate and lawful immigration policies, dignifying language, religious liberty, and gospel-centered ministry to immigrant and refugee communities; now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, reaffirm our longstanding conviction that every human being possesses God-given worth and dignity as an image-bearer of God (Genesis 1:26-27); and be it further

2. RESOLVED, That the church is called to faithful gospel proclamation, love of neighbor, hospitality to the stranger, and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:25-37); and be it further
3. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm the call to pray for governing authorities as they lead the civil government in carrying out its responsibility to secure borders, enforce immigration laws, maintain an orderly and credible immigration system, and pursue clear, enforceable, and humane policies that uphold both justice and mercy, recognizing that the government is not the church and the church is not the state, though both remain accountable to God for the stewardship of their distinct callings (Micah 6:8; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2); and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm support for lawful immigration enforcement carried out justly, humanely, and according to due process, including the removal of those whom the government duly prioritizes for deportation and accountability for criminal activity, human trafficking, and unlawful employment practices; and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we reject amnesty, understood as forgiveness of legal violations without accountability; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we also reject nativism, racial or ethnic hostility, ethno-nationalism, discrimination, and all ideologies or rhetoric that deny the equal worth and dignity of any people group regardless of immigration status, while also affirming that Christian compassion and hospitality do not negate lawful order or excuse indifference to public justice and social peace (Ephesians 2:14-19; Hebrews 13:2); and be it further
7. RESOLVED, That we exhort the government to take particular care of children and families, insisting upon respect for the God-given worth and dignity of every person and the religious liberty of churches to minister freely (Zechariah 7:9-10; Matthew 19:14); and be it finally
8. RESOLVED, That we encourage Southern Baptist churches to strengthen faithful gospel ministry among immigrants and refugees, and seek one another's good through shared civic values, practical service, and Christ-centered community as we proclaim the gospel to people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Matthew 25:35; Revelation 7:9).



On Finishing Well in Life and Ministry

1. WHEREAS, The grace of God has appeared, both “bringing salvation for all people” and “instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12); and
 2. WHEREAS, Those who have been called to pastoral ministry are called to a noble task, requiring them to live the Christian life above reproach, characterized by holiness, self-control, and integrity, and to guard their lives and their teaching carefully (1 Timothy 3:1-7, 4:16; Titus 1:5-9); and
 3. WHEREAS, The apostle Paul testifies near the end of his life, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7), setting before all believers and especially ministers of the gospel a vision of faithful endurance to the end; and
 4. WHEREAS, The New Testament regularly instructs the people of God to imitate the faith of those leaders who exemplify lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; Hebrews 13:7)
 5. WHEREAS, Hebrews 11 provides testimony of a cloud of witnesses, men and women who endured to the end by faith, believing that God’s promises are better than the fleeting pleasures of sin; and
 6. WHEREAS, The Christian life is likened to a race in which Christians must lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely and to run with endurance the race that is set before them, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of their faith (1 Corinthians 9:27; Hebrews 12:1-2); and
 7. WHEREAS, In our day what often gets most public attention is pastors and ministry leaders who have fallen into sin and moral failure, who have hindered churches and ministries with scandal, or who have been divisive and unwise in public discourse; and
 8. WHEREAS, Contrary to these negative examples, countless positive examples of pastors and ministry leaders across the Southern Baptist Convention have served for decades with integrity and steadfastness; now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, express heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for pastors and ministry leaders who, by his grace, labored faithfully over many years and finished well, keeping the faith and maintaining a testimony above reproach to the end; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we honor those unknown servants who are currently shepherding God’s people with integrity and holiness, whose ministries are bearing lasting fruit often not widely recognized, and who by God’s grace will leave a legacy of faithfulness for future generations; and be it further

3. RESOLVED, That we encourage all pastors and ministry leaders to persevere by faith in holiness, humility, and devotion to Christ, fixing their eyes on Jesus as the source of their faith and the guarantee of its completion so that they finish their course in a manner worthy of the gospel; and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we likewise call upon all Southern Baptists to imitate such faith by pursuing lives of faithful endurance and to support and pray for their leaders, so that the people of God together may finish well to the glory of God (Hebrews 13:18); and be it finally
5. RESOLVED, That our confidence for finishing well is not our own power, but the power of God, “who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy” (Jude 24) and his promise that “he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).



On Appreciation for Bivocational and Volunteer Pastors

1. WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus Christ has called pastors to shepherd his church faithfully through the preaching of the Word, prayer, discipleship, pastoral care, and leadership within the local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:11-12; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4); and
 2. WHEREAS, A significant number of Southern Baptist churches are led by bivocational or volunteer pastors, who balance the demands of church ministry alongside marketplace employment and family responsibilities; and
 3. WHEREAS, These pastors faithfully shepherd congregations, engage their communities, and advance the mission of Christ's church often through unseen acts of service, personal sacrifice, late nights, and long days; and
 4. WHEREAS, Scripture affirms the dignity of labor and provides examples of ministry leaders like the apostle Paul and many of Jesus's disciples who served the church bivocationally with faithful perseverance while striving for the glory of God and for the advancement of the gospel (Acts 18:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:9); and
 5. WHEREAS, The terms "bivocational," "part-time," "covocational," and "volunteer" often refer only to compensation but do not adequately reflect the scope or responsibility of pastoral ministry (1 Timothy 5:18); and
 6. WHEREAS, Many Southern Baptist churches and church plants, particularly in rural communities, small towns, and underserved areas, have been shepherded and strengthened through the faithful service of bivocational and volunteer pastors and their families; now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, express heartfelt gratitude to Southern Baptist bivocational and volunteer pastors for their faithful and sacrificial service to Christ and his church; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we honor the commitment, perseverance, humility, and gospel faithfulness demonstrated by bivocational and volunteer pastors who labor diligently both in ministry and in the workplace (Romans 13:7); and be it further
 3. RESOLVED, That we also express appreciation for the wives and families of bivocational and volunteer pastors who support, sacrifice, encourage, and partner in ministry; and be it further
 4. RESOLVED, That we exhort Southern Baptist churches to pray for, support, encourage, and care well for their pastors, recognizing the spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical demands of bivocational and volunteer ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:6); and be it further

5. RESOLVED, That we urge Southern Baptist churches, associations, state conventions, and entities to support the equipping and encouragement of bivocational and volunteer pastors; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we pray the Lord of the harvest would continue to raise up and send faithful pastors to proclaim the gospel, disciple believers, and strengthen churches in every community (Matthew 9:36-38); and be it finally
7. RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the enduring ministry of Southern Baptist bivocational and volunteer pastors who have labored faithfully in churches to advance the gospel across the generations.



On the Nature and Importance of the Physically Gathered Church in a Digital Age

1. WHEREAS, Scripture presents the local church as an embodied assembly of baptized believers who covenant together for worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission (Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:24-25); and
 2. WHEREAS, Christ entrusted the local church with baptism and the Lord's Supper as visible ordinances to be practiced within the gathered body (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26); and
 3. WHEREAS, Christ promises his active, validating presence over the collective decisions of his church when, acting as his witnesses, they gather together to prayerfully resolve matters in his name (Matthew 18:17-20); and
 4. WHEREAS, Digital technologies and platforms provide new opportunities for gospel proclamation, biblical instruction, communication, and connection; and
 5. WHEREAS, Technological developments also introduce challenges that may obscure the importance of the gathered church, of church membership, and of pastoral ministry, and may further confuse the goodness of embodied existence; and
 6. WHEREAS, Local churches have sought to make wise use of available technologies for the sake of the gospel, while recognizing that such tools must never be confused with the local church itself; now, therefore, be it
1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, affirm that—unless providentially hindered—regular, embodied assembly is vital to equipping the saints for the work of ministry and building up the body of Christ, and that this biblical pattern is not fulfilled by digital participation alone (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24-25); and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we affirm the responsible use of digital technologies and platforms as aids to ministry, while recognizing that such tools cannot fulfill the biblical functions of the gathered church, cannot replace the personal ministry of pastors and members, and should be used to support and encourage connection to the embodied life of a faithful local church (1 Thessalonians 2:8; 2 John 12); and be it further
 3. RESOLVED, That we affirm that baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be administered within the gathered church, under the oversight of pastors, in keeping with the New Testament witness, and not by virtual or digitally mediated substitutes; and be it further
 4. RESOLVED, That we encourage local churches to exercise wisdom, integrity, and theological discernment as they teach and model meaningful membership, mutual accountability, and faithful participation in the embodied life of the church; and be it finally

5. RESOLVED, That we reaffirm that a local church is the embodied assembly of baptized believers, gathered for his glory and gifted for service, for the good of one another, and for the advance of the gospel, and is not merely a virtual or technological experience, nor can any digital form, by itself, constitute a New Testament church (Romans 12:3-13; 1 Corinthians 12).



On the Office and Function of Pastor/Elder/Overseer

1. WHEREAS, Scripture assigns the work of shepherding, overseeing, and teaching and preaching to the gathered church to qualified men appointed by the church to the office of pastor/elder/overseer (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3); and
2. WHEREAS, *The Baptist Faith and Message* 2000 states that the church's "two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon" and that "the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture" (Article VI); and
3. WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention recently reaffirmed its confessional heritage that the New Testament terms "bishop," "elder," "overseer," and "pastor" refer to the same biblical office ("On the Southern Baptist Confessional Heritage of the Office of Bishop/Elder/Pastor," 2023); and
4. WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that women are equally created in the image of God, gifted by the Holy Spirit for meaningful service, and valuable in the work of the church (Genesis 1:27; Acts 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:5, 12; Titus 2:3-5); and
5. WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention has repeatedly affirmed both the equal dignity and value of women in service to the church of Jesus Christ ("On the Legacy and Responsibility of Women Fulfilling the Great Commission," 2023; "On the Dignity and Worth of Women on the Occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of Women as Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention," 2018); and
6. WHEREAS, Confusion has arisen in some Southern Baptist churches regarding the relationship between the title, office, and function of pastor, including the use of title "pastor," "elder," or "overseer" for roles that either do not carry the responsibilities of the pastoral office or are assigned in ways inconsistent with the Convention's articulated understanding of Scripture on this matter; and
7. WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have recognized that biblical terminology should be used carefully and consistently in order to promote doctrinal clarity, faithful cooperation, and unity among churches; now, therefore, be it
 1. RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, June 9-10, 2026, reaffirm that the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture; and be it further
 2. RESOLVED, That we affirm that the New Testament presents the pastoral office and the function of pastoral oversight of the church as inseparably connected; and be it further

3. RESOLVED, That we affirm the function of teaching Scripture and preaching the Word to the gathered church is essentially connected to the office of pastor/elder/overseer and should not be separated from the qualifications for pastoral ministry; and be it further
4. RESOLVED, That we encourage Southern Baptist churches to maintain clarity and integrity in their ministerial titles and practices so that nomenclature is not used in ways that obscure or contradict the Convention's adopted statement of faith regarding the pastoral office; specifically, we encourage churches to use the titles "pastor," "elder," and "overseer" in a manner consistent with the biblical office described in Scripture and affirmed in *The Baptist Faith and Message* 2000 and not to use these titles in ways that separate the title from the office and function of pastor; and be it further
5. RESOLVED, That we express gratitude for the indispensable service, discipleship, evangelism, missions work, and ministry contributions of women throughout Southern Baptist life and encourage churches to continue affirming and deploying women in biblically faithful ways; and be it further
6. RESOLVED, That we call pastors to teach and uphold the biblical pattern of church leadership, which includes exemplifying the qualifications of godly character and conduct prescribed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9; and be it finally
7. RESOLVED, That we commend this understanding to the churches of the Convention and to the entities and committees serving the Convention as reflective of the Southern Baptist Convention's confessional understanding of the office and function of pastor.





ORLANDO
2026