

4. Catawba Gambling in Marion County

WHEREAS, Gambling is an immoral effort that creates deliberate risks not inherent in or necessary to the functioning of society; and South Carolina Baptists have historically opposed gambling in all forms; and

WHEREAS, Gambling feeds on greed and invites persons to place their trust in possessions rather than in God; and

WHEREAS, Gambling represents a form of idolatry that contradicts the first commandment and can result in addiction; and

WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:9—10a (KJV): "... they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil"; and

WHEREAS, Gambling, as a means of acquiring material gain by chance at the neighbor's expense, is a menace to personal character and social morality; and

WHEREAS, Organized and commercial gambling is a threat to business, breeds crime and poverty, and is destructive to the interests of good government; and

WHEREAS, Gambling encourages the belief that work is unimportant, that money can solve all our problems, and that greed is the norm for achievement; and

WHEREAS, Dependence on gambling revenue has led many governments to exploit the weakness of citizens, neglect developing more equitable forms of taxation, and thereby eroding citizens' confidence in government; and

WHEREAS, The Catawba Tribe of York County agreed to the provisions set forth in the Catawba Indian Claims Settlement Act (Title 27, Chapter 16, SC Code of Laws) approved by the state of South Carolina and federal elected officials; and

WHEREAS, The Catawba Indian Tribe of York County seeks to open a high-stakes, bingo operation in Marion County; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Florence, South Carolina on November 13—14, 2007, again express our vigorous opposition to gambling in all forms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this convention commends the decision of the minority of the Marion County Council who voted to reject this venue; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the full Marion County Council to rescind the Ordinance for the Establishment of an Indian Game Facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge pastors and lay leaders of SC Baptist churches to continue to be aware of the dangers of gambling and to further educate their congregations and the community about the destructive nature of gambling; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we support (1) enforcing strong antigambling laws, (2) repealing laws that give gambling an acceptable or advantageous place in society, and (3) rehabilitating gambling addicts.