

7. Escalation of Gang Violence

WHEREAS, Gangs victimize many citizens in our state and gang violence is on the rise; and

WHEREAS, Boys and girls are recruited and coerced to join gangs; and

WHEREAS, A gang presence demonstrates and promotes a destructive lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Gangs now cross racial, geographic, and economic lines and fulfill a need for belonging in some individuals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Florence, South Carolina on November 13—14, 2007, encourage churches to reach out to the youth in our churches and in our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we become mentors to these young people and that we become Christ-like examples in our homes and in the public square; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge South Carolina Baptist churches to create crime watch blocks in their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists cross denominational and ethnic lines to create an active community coalition to guard against gangs and gang violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit to pray for our elected officials and law enforcement agencies (Colossians 4:2); and that we invite them into our churches to educate our congregations on how to recognize and curb gang violence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for opportunities to minister to and evangelize those influenced by gang activity; recognizing that gang members are souls for whom Jesus died and that we ourselves, once, were rebels against the cause of Christ (Romans 5:8); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That South Carolina Baptists invest a genuine effort to reach those entangled in this social evil because we know that the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only true cure for all sin sickness (Romans 1:16).