

9. Sexually Oriented Businesses

WHEREAS, Recent editorials in some South Carolina newspapers have stated the need for strict enforcement of laws and regulations regarding sexually oriented businesses; and

WHEREAS, According to the media, managers or owners of these businesses have ignored the law regarding registration or business license procedures; and

WHEREAS, Sexually oriented businesses have been breeding grounds for prostitution, drug deals and other crimes; and

WHEREAS, We are called to acknowledge our own fallenness (Genesis 3: 1—7); and

WHEREAS, The erosion of moral fidelity has reached crisis proportions; and

WHEREAS, Sexual infidelity and other violations of Christian integrity hold tragic consequences for those who are victimized and for others indirectly impacted by those transgressions; and

WHEREAS, The Bible calls ministers of the gospel—whether they are pastors, counselors, educators, missionaries, chaplains, or laymen—to be above reproach morally, both within the body of Christ and in the larger community (1Timothy 3:1—13); 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 South Carolina Baptists to participate actively in legally permissible means of protest to dissuade the establishment of sexually oriented businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for those who have been harmed as a result of sexual addictions and/or abuse and urge our churches to offer support, compassion, and biblical counseling to them and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the members of our General Assembly to pass legislation restricting sexually oriented businesses in our state; and be it finally

ORDERED, That the Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee send a letter encouraging legislation to regulate these morally bankrupt businesses along with a copy of this resolution to each member of the South Carolina General Assembly.