

Resolutions

Report of the Resolutions Committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention November 10-11, 2009

Resolutions or topics submitted and their disposition by the committee:

- Appreciation, presented as Resolution 1, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
- Call for Prayer for Governor Mark Sanford, presented as Resolution 2, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
- National Healthcare Reform, presented as Resolution 3, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
- Regenerate Church Membership and Church Member Restoration, presented as Resolution 4, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
- Gambling in South Carolina, presented as Resolution 5, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
- Hate Crimes Legislation, presented as Resolution 6, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
- Homosexuality and Military Service, presented as Resolution 7, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
- Honoring Dr. Morris Chapman and Dr. Jerry Rankin, presented as Resolution 8, submitted by Rev. Rod Elliott, Kelleytown Baptist Church
- Honoring Weldon Fallaw, President of the SC Baptist Foundation, submitted by the Resolutions Committee

We appreciate the privilege of serving as the 2009 Resolutions Committee. We present this report to the messengers of the 189th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Dr. Tony Smith, Chairman
Rev. Chris Gray, Vice-Chairman
Rev. Jeremy Chasteen
Mr. Andy Clark
Dr. Ken Hood
Rev. Stephen Watson
Rev. David Worthington

1. Appreciation

WHEREAS, We, the messengers to the 189th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, have experienced the grace of our sovereign God in His provision for our lives, our families, and our churches; and

WHEREAS, We have gathered in the City of

Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, to celebrate our calling in Christ and to continue our work together for the gospel of Jesus; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to the City of Columbia for its hospitality to South Carolina Baptists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank the staff of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the officers of the Convention, the chairmen and members of each Convention committee, and all those participating in conducting the 2009 South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting, for their commitment, efforts, and leadership; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we thank God supremely for the privilege of being part of His family and servants in the cause of Jesus Christ His Son. To God be the glory.

2. Call for Prayer for Governor Mark Sanford

WHEREAS, The Bible says governmental authority is ordained by God (Romans 13:1); and

WHEREAS, Christians are called to honor and pray for our leaders (1 Peter 2:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-3); and

WHEREAS, Christian leaders in authority have significant public visibility and influence requiring high moral standards and values; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mark Sanford is the duly elected Governor of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sanford professes to be a believer in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, God calls all believers to be faithful to their marriage vows (Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, Governor Sanford admitted on July 24, 2009, to having an extramarital affair and has publicly asked for forgiveness; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we call on all South Carolina Baptists, as well as Christians throughout our state, to pray for Governor Sanford, his wife Jenny, their children, and the restoration of their marriage and family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call all leaders of our state and nation to a high standard of moral fidelity, especially with regard to their marriages and families; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, pray for wisdom and direction for our elected officials as they provide

leadership for our state.

3. National Healthcare Reform

WHEREAS, Congress is considering legislation regarding a universal healthcare plan that is lengthy and vague in its terminology; and

WHEREAS, The current political climate passionately advocated government funding of abortion and disregards the sanctity of human life; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists have historically, consistently, and definitively affirmed the sanctity of human life; and

WHEREAS, Proposed legislation creates a program for senior citizens which likely would include education about the end-of-life decisions and impacts on families; and

WHEREAS, This legislation provides government funding for abortions and encourages limiting the size of families through counseling; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, call on our United States Senators and Congressmen to exert every effort in bringing the full weight and force of their respective offices to bear on this issue to see that language is used that eliminates any vagueness in terminology and closes any possible loopholes that might be used later to approve public funds for abortion, intrusive family planning recommendations, and end-of-life counseling under the proposed healthcare reform; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our Senators and Congressmen in Washington; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on every South Carolina Baptist to raise these concerns with their elected federal officials.

4. Regenerate Church Membership and Church Member Restoration

WHEREAS, The ideal of a regenerate church membership has long been and remains a cherished Baptist principle, with Article VI of the Baptist Faith and Message describing the church as a "local congregation of baptized believers"; and

WHEREAS, A New Testament church is composed only of those who have been born again by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word (Romans 10:17), becoming disciples of Jesus Christ, the local church's only Lord, by grace through faith (John 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9), which church practices believers' only baptism

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by immersion (Matthew 28:16-20), and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-30); and

WHEREAS, Local associations and the South Carolina Baptist Convention compile statistics reported by the churches to make decisions for the future; and

WHEREAS, The 2008 Annual Church Profiles indicate that there are more than 700,000 members in South Carolina Baptist Convention churches; and

WHEREAS, Those same profiles indicate that only 52.1 percent of those members attend a primary worship service of their church in a typical week; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures admonish us to exercise church discipline as we seek to restore any professed brother or sister in Christ who has strayed from the truth and is in sin (Matthew 18:15-35; Galatians 6:1; 1 Corinthians 5); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, urge churches to maintain a regenerate membership by acknowledging the necessity of spiritual regeneration and Christ's lordship for all members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we humbly urge our churches to maintain accurate membership rolls for the purpose of fostering ministry and accountability among all members of the congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention to repent of the failure among us to live up to our professed commitment to regenerate church membership and any failure to obey Jesus Christ in the practice of lovingly correcting wayward church members (Matthew 18:15-18); and be it

RESOLVED, that we respectfully urge the churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention to develop, implement, and support ministries to fully integrate new members and converts into their fellowship, discipling them in the way of the Lord; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we humbly encourage denominational servants to support and encourage churches that seek to recover and implement our Savior's teachings on church discipline, even if such efforts result in the reduction in the number of members that are reported in those churches; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we humbly urge the churches of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and their pastors to implement a plan to minister to, counsel, and restore wayward church members

based upon the commands and principles given in Scripture (Matthew 18:15-35; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).

5. Gambling in South Carolina

WHEREAS, Recent economic chaos has created a vulnerability of false hope; and

WHEREAS, While South Carolina Baptists support free enterprise and business, we are opposed to gatherings or ventures that emphasize the love of money; and

WHEREAS, Some members of our state legislature are working to expand the gambling laws in our state to include high-stakes poker games in homes and raffles/casino nights for nonprofit groups and others; and

WHEREAS, South Carolinians celebrate local traditions and various cultural/ethnic entities through festivals and highlighted heritage events; and

WHEREAS, Various Internet sources report more than 23,000 nonprofit organizations in our state, including schools, booster clubs, civic organizations, hospitals, churches, country clubs, and other special interest groups; and

WHEREAS, The Catawba Tribe recently announced intentions to open a Bingo gambling venue; and

WHEREAS, One South Carolina activist judge sanctioned Texas Hold'em poker as a legal game, thereby legislating from the bench, circumventing the General Assembly, and ignoring the state Attorney General's position on this issue; and

WHEREAS, Historically, Southern Baptists have been vocal about the harmful effects of all forms of gambling; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, express our alarm and concern about the growth of legalized and illegal gambling in our country and in our state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all South Carolina Legislators (2010) to vote against all bills that would expand or support new or existing gambling venues; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the Catawba Tribe of York County to pursue forms of revenue that would celebrate their history and their heritage instead of gambling operations; and be it further

RESOLVED that we reaffirm and reassert our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to provide and meet economic, physical, emotional, and

spiritual needs (Proverbs 3:5,6) and we disregard the false hope of economic growth through gambling (Matthew 6:19-24); and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief of the Catawba Tribe of York County to show our concern for their economic distress; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded immediately to the Governor, members of the General Assembly, and the Attorney General as a continued demonstration of our resolve and as an encouragement to those who stand firm in their opposition to gambling expansion in South Carolina.

6. Hate Crimes Legislation

WHEREAS, Certain federal legislators are considering a bill to create specially protected classes of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons (LGBT); and

WHEREAS, Hate crimes legislation criminalizes beliefs or thoughts as well as actions; and

WHEREAS, The current legislation under consideration includes language that would require prosecution of a crime based on the alleged victim's perception of the perpetrator; and

WHEREAS, Such legislation violates the US Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law for all people; and

WHEREAS, Federal hate crimes legislation would effectively kill the First Amendment freedom of speech by criminalizing any verbal opposition to homosexuals and/or their lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Pastors and lay-leaders around the world have been arrested, prosecuted, and jailed or fined because they publicly spoke biblical truth regarding homosexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, There is no need for this type of legislation since all crimes are committed out of selfishness or hate; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, encourage all South Carolina Baptist voters in our state to contact their federal elected officials and ask them to repeal recently passed hate crimes legislation that was added to HR 2647 (appropriations for Department of Defense, military activities); and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our Senators and Congressmen in Washington to remind them of our resolve to keep freedom of speech in our pulpits and the public square; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That we urge all Americans to avoid acts of hatred and violence toward lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons and treat our fellow citizens with the kind of civility we would prefer to receive ourselves (Matthew 7:12); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we encourage all believers to love and show compassion toward lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgendered persons, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is able to bring true freedom from error and to set free the captives of sin (John 8:34-36).

7. Homosexuality and Military Service

WHEREAS, Members of the United States military serve our country faithfully, both at home and abroad, and are aggressively engaged in the global war on terror; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Hussein Obama recently re-emphasized his intentions to end the Don't ask, Don't tell policy regarding homosexuals in the military; and

WHEREAS, Open and avowed homosexual conduct is inconsistent with Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and is detrimental to morale, unit cohesion, good order, discipline, and mission accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, Homosexuality is contrary to Scripture (Lev. 18:22; 1 Cor. 6:9-10) and contrary to traditional Judeo-Christian moral standards (Rom. 1:18-32); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we encourage all Christians to be salt and light by exemplifying sexual purity in our daily walk, speaking candidly to the culture, and acting redemptively toward individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, encourage Christians to pray for the safety and well-being of our military personnel at all times, with particular attention to those who are in harm's way; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose abandoning the Don't ask, Don't tell policy; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we support the current military code barring the practice of homosexuality in the military and call upon the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to honor Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice which precludes homosexual behavior among active service personnel.

8. Honoring Drs. Morris Chapman and Jerry Rankin

WHEREAS, Dr. Morris Chapman, President of

the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and Dr. Jerry Rankin, President of the International Mission Board (IMB), recently announced their retirements effective next year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Morris Chapman has led the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1992; and

WHEREAS, He invigorated and renewed the emphasis of the Cooperative Program, the missions, theological, and financial vehicle that has supported our Convention's work since 1925; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Chapman has encouraged the Executive Committee to administer the affairs of our Convention in such a way that promotes kingdom growth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jerry Rankin has led the IMB since 1993; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rankin is Christ's catalyst for sending more than 5,000 full-time, career missionaries abroad, planting almost 27,000 churches, and engaging 101 new people groups with the gospel; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, acknowledge with grateful hearts the leadership of these two men and their faithful service to our Lord and to Southern Baptists; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all South Carolina Baptists to lift these men in prayer as the next phase of kingdom service is revealed to these godly men; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge all South Carolina Baptists to pray for the teams that will seek new leaders to direct and shepherd the vital ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention and the International Mission Board.

8. Honoring Weldon Fallaw, President of the SC Baptist Fondation

WHEREAS, Weldon Fallaw has provided leadership to the South Carolina Baptist Foundation, investing 17 years as Vice President and nine years as President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fallaw worked with Foundation staff and board members to see growth in Foundation assets from \$12 million to more than \$75 million during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fallaw enjoys participating in community action through the Kiwanis Club, where he served in various leadership positions including president; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fallaw has faithfully served in various leadership positions in his beloved State Street Baptist Church (West Columbia) during his 40 years of membership there; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Lexington Baptist Association as an associational men's officer, on the Strategy Planning Committee, and the Executive Ministry Team; and

WHEREAS, He has served many churches in South Carolina by serving through the SC Baptist Convention as a certified deacon trainer, seminar leader, lay-led revival specialist, team leader for international mission trips, and program specialist for the Stewardship Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fallaw is a man of humility and noble character, with an exceptional passion for serving the Lord by serving others; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the 189th annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, meeting in Columbia on November 10-11, 2009, express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Fallaw for his long service as one of Christ's ambassadors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we appreciate the man and his legacy to South Carolina Baptists and we covenant to pray for the Fallaw family as they enter this new and exciting phase of ministry to the kingdom.

The parliamentary authority for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the SC Baptist Convention will be Robert's Rules of Order.

Procedural Points

1. All resolutions are required to be submitted in writing to the Committee on Resolutions at least 30 days prior to the convention. By a two-thirds vote, the Convention may choose to consider a new resolution if it deals with emergencies such as national disasters or public tragedies.

2. All questions and comments during discussions should be directed to the chair.

(a) To make a motion, etc. the messengers need to secure a microphone and give name and church before bringing a motion for debate.

(b) At no time should a member personally debate with other members on the floor a matter under discussion.

(c) The practice of common Christian courtesy in manner of speech should be exemplary.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

of the



South Carolina Baptist Convention

November 10-11, 2009