

2022 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

We appreciate the privilege of serving on the 2022 Resolutions Committee. We prayerfully considered each resolution of substance and meaning for the messengers of this Convention. We thoroughly discussed the value and wisdom of the thoughts included in each proposal and we addressed issues that impact South Carolinians, Convention-affiliated churches, and the Kingdom of Christ.

We present this report to the messengers of the 202nd Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, on November 14–15, 2022.

Disposition of received proposals:

1. **Appreciation**, presented as Resolution 1, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
2. **Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the South Carolina Baptist Collegiate Ministry**, presented as Resolution 2, submitted by the Resolutions Committee
3. **Support of Christian Higher Education**, amended and presented as Resolution 3, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
4. **The Use of Preferred Gender Pronouns**, amended and presented as Resolution 4, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
5. **Encouraging the South Carolina Legislature to Pass a Law Protecting Minors by Prohibiting Transgender Surgery, Puberty Blockers, and Cross-Hormone Therapies**, amended and presented as Resolution 5, submitted by the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee
6. **Exhorting Affiliated South Carolina Baptist Convention Churches to Develop Biblical Definitions and Policies to Confront Sexual Abuse**, amended and presented as Resolution 6, submitted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force
7. **Strengthening and Clarifying Laws Concerning Pastors and Churches Regarding Sexual Abuse**, amended and presented as Resolution 7, submitted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention Sexual Abuse Task Force
8. **Appreciation for Dr. Gary Hollingsworth**, presented as Resolution 8, submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Doug Mize, Chair

Donny Mathis, Vice-Chair

Ryan Ofenloch

Philip Turner

Bert Watts

APPRECIATION

- 1
- 2
- 3 WHEREAS, the messengers of the 202nd annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention have
- 4 been the recipients of the gracious hospitality of the staff and members of Riverland Hills Baptist Church;
- 5 and
- 6
- 7 WHEREAS, Ryan Pack, Pastor of Riverland Hills Baptist Church, has provided excellent support for the
- 8 South Carolina Baptist Convention annual meeting and other related meetings; and
- 9
- 10 WHEREAS, worshipping together promises to be uplifting and demonstrates a commitment of South
- 11 Carolina Baptist Convention pastors and leaders to work together to advance God's kingdom and fulfill the
- 12 Great Commission; and

13 WHEREAS, the president, officers, committees, and platform personnel have conducted the affairs of this
14 annual meeting with dignity and in a Christlike manner; and

15

16 WHEREAS, the messengers to the 202nd annual session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention
17 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, have been received with enthusiastic affection,
18 encouraged in ministry, and disciplined by dear friends; therefore, be it

19

20 RESOLVED, that we express our profound gratitude to the Lord and all those whose efforts have
21 contributed to the joyful outlook, cooperative spirit, and evangelistic impact of this annual meeting.

1 **CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST**
2 **COLLEGIATE MINISTRY**

3

4 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Baptist Convention was built on a foundation of missions, education, and
5 cooperation more than 200 years ago; and

6

7 WHEREAS, our Convention continues to value and be committed to missions, education, and cooperation;
8 and

9

10 WHEREAS, One hundred years ago, the first two Baptist Student campus groups were founded at Winthrop
11 University and USC-Columbia and have expanded to more than 30 groups across the state where they
12 demonstrate these key core values every day; and

13

14 WHEREAS, South Carolina students were instrumental in promoting the growth of the Cooperative
15 Program in our state as teams of students traveled to churches encouraging them to adopt this new form of
16 working together to accomplish God’s mission; and

17

18 WHEREAS, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry sending college student
19 summer missionaries and 2,107 students have devoted their summers to proclaim the Gospel across South
20 Carolina, North America, and the World; and

21

22 WHEREAS, BCM part- and full-time staff members and student leaders intentionally focus on building
23 relationships on each campus and with local churches; and

24

25 WHEREAS, the BCM disciples new believers, sends student missionaries, encourages students to go deep
26 into God’s Word, challenges young adults to discover truth in an imperfect world, provides a safe place for
27 fellowship, and welcomes all who come; and

28

29 WHEREAS, there are more than 200,000 South Carolina college students currently not involved in any type
30 of church; therefore, be it

31

32 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South
33 Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, honor the Baptist Collegiate Ministry for the countless lives impacted for
34 Christ throughout the years; and be it further

35

36 RESOLVED, that we promote the work and ministry of the BCM with others in our churches and
37 gatherings and work to become involved with BCM; and be it finally

38

39 RESOLVED, that we celebrate the past 100 years of ministry on college and university campuses in South

40 Carolina, and that we pray for many more years of missions, service, and lives surrendered to Christ.

1 **SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

2
3 WHEREAS, providing Christian higher education has been a foremost priority among South Carolina
4 Baptists; and
5
6 WHEREAS, by the grace of God, the South Carolina Baptist Convention has established universities that
7 have made great contributions not only to the Body of Christ including Baptists in South Carolina, but also
8 to our communities, state, nation, and the world; and
9
10 WHEREAS, we are one generation away from a people who know not God or the great things He has done,
11 necessitating a priority on the Christian higher education of the next generation; and
12
13 WHEREAS, while a great many schools of higher education nationally have drifted from their original
14 commitments to undergird and advance the Great Commission, as evidenced by former Baptist universities
15 and colleges that are no longer confessional or even recognizably Christian; and
16
17 WHEREAS, the forces which drive schools toward compromise, spiritual apathy, and secularism are
18 diverse, including the fear of numerical and financial decline, thirst for prestige, and the applause of the
19 world to the detriment of doctrinal fidelity; therefore, be it
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21 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 202nd session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention
22 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, express our gratitude for the ministry of our
23 Baptist institutions of higher education; and be it further
24
25 RESOLVED, that we affirm and commend the administrators, faculties, and staffs of these institutions for
26 their dedication to the cause of Christian higher education; and be it further
27
28 RESOLVED, that we encourage a commitment to responsible Christian liberty, academic excellence,
29 faithfulness to the Word of God, and the freedom of conscience and expression which results in spiritual and
30 moral maturity on these campuses; and be it finally
31
32 RESOLVED, that South Carolina Baptists reaffirm our commitment to Anderson, Charleston Southern, and
33 North Greenville Universities as they stand for doctrinal fidelity and biblical values, supporting them by
34 sending them our students, equipping them with capable and godly trustees, and resourcing them with our
35 continued financial support.

1 **ON THE USE OF PREFERRED GENDER PRONOUNS**

2
3 WHEREAS, God’s people are called to love and serve our neighbors (Mark 12:31); and
4
5 WHEREAS, much conversation has arisen in Evangelical circles about the acceptability of using preferred
6 gender pronouns; and
7
8 WHEREAS, God, being the ultimate knower and creator of every life, has fixed the objective definitions
9 of sexuality and gender identity wholly within the realm of His revelation and creative purpose (Genesis
10 1:26–27); and

11 WHEREAS, in denying the existence of objective truth, the philosophies undergirding the demands of the
12 LGBTQ+ movement for public conformity to preferred pronoun usage view the institution of language as a
13 tool of political power to be wielded in the public square; and

14

15 WHEREAS, language was created by God to describe, point toward, and give praise for whatever is true
16 and beautiful in His creation (Genesis 1:31); and

17

18 WHEREAS, modern language demands are often used to circumvent dialogue, coerce speech, and cultivate
19 new cultural assumptions that obfuscate biblical truth; and

20

21 WHEREAS, to speak in a way contrary to God's revelation and creative purpose by adopting and uttering
22 preferred pronouns that refer to anything other than an individual's birth sex and chromosomal make-up is
23 to speak falsely about the imago Dei (image of God) revealed in man and woman; and

24

25 WHEREAS, South Carolina Baptists' ability to contend for the Gospel surrounding the so-called same-sex
26 marriage issue was greatly diminished by the culture's prior adoption of contradictory same-sex marriage
27 language that rendered our sexual ethic incomprehensible to many; therefore, be it

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29 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 202nd session of the South Carolina Baptist Convention
30 meeting in Irmo, South Carolina, November 14–15, 2022, state unequivocally our love for our LGBTQ+
31 neighbors, praying earnestly for genuine friendships leading to fruitful conversations about the Gospel; and
32 be it further

33

34 RESOLVED, that we affirm the measure of our love toward our neighbors should not be evaluated by our
35 willingness to utter any unbiblical and false language and assumptions; and be it further

36

37 RESOLVED, that we hereby call on all South Carolina Baptists to recognize the peril of ceding any
38 linguistic ground to a movement that has demonstrated its intention to use language as a tool to render our
39 message less comprehensible to those we seek to evangelize; be it further

40

41 RESOLVED, that we encourage all South Carolina Baptists to resist speaking falsely and giving credence to
42 the philosophies of the LGBTQ+ movement by adopting preferred pronouns that do not refer to a person's
43 created sex and biological makeup; and be it finally

44

45 RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to dialogue with and showing compassion to those who experience
46 gender dysphoria while engaging them with the kindness and truth of Christ (Ephesians 4:15; Galatians
47 5:22–23).

1 **ENCOURAGING THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE TO PASS A LAW PROTECTING**
2 **MINORS BY PROHIBITING TRANSGENDER SURGERY, PUBERTY BLOCKERS, AND CROSS-**
3 **HORMONE THERAPIES**

4

5 WHEREAS, all persons are created in God's image and are made to glorify Him (Genesis 1:27; Isaiah
6 43:7); and

7

8 WHEREAS, God's design is the creation of two distinct and complementary sexes, male and female
9 (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6) which designate the fundamental distinction that God has
10 embedded in the very biology of the human race; and

11 WHEREAS, transgenderism is an umbrella term for the state or condition of identifying or expressing a
12 gender identity that does not match a person's physical/genetic sex; and

13

14 WHEREAS, approximately 700,000 individuals in the United States identify as transgender; and

15

16 WHEREAS, according to multiple media reports, high-profile hospitals, including some children's
17 hospitals, have been accused of performing gender transition surgery, and prescribing puberty blockers and
18 cross-sex hormones for minors; and

19

20 WHEREAS, we recognize the biblical mandate that parents are responsible to guide their children, making
21 decisions that are in the best interest of their children's spiritual, emotional, and psychological development
22 (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 22:6; I Timothy 3:12); and

23

24 WHEREAS, in 2021 Arkansas became the first state to ban transgender surgery and the proscribing of
25 puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors; and

26

27 WHEREAS, state legislatures including Tennessee, Utah, Florida, Texas, and Idaho, are considering laws
28 that would mirror Arkansas's ban; and

29

30 WHEREAS, according to studies conducted at Vanderbilt University and London's Portman Clinic, when
31 children who reported transgender feelings were tracked without medical or surgical treatment, 70-80
32 percent of them spontaneously lost those feelings; and

33

34 WHEREAS, current trends indicate that some public schools are encouraging parents and teachers to affirm
35 the feelings of children under the age of 18 whose self-perception of their own gender is at variance with
36 their biological sex; and

37

38 WHEREAS, children under the age of 18 are not equipped mentally, emotionally, spiritually, or
39 psychologically to choose to change their gender identity through the introduction of powerful life-altering
40 drugs or sex reassignment surgery; and

41

42 WHEREAS, these disturbing cultural currents run counter to biblical teaching as summarized in the *Baptist*
43 *Faith and Message 2000*, Article III, that "Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He
44 created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the
45 goodness of God's creation"; therefore, be it

46

47 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South
48 Carolina, November 14-15, 2022, affirm God's good design that gender identity is determined by biological
49 sex and that regardless of one's personal identity, males are distinguished by possessing both an X and Y
50 chromosomes, while females possess two X chromosomes and not by one's self-perception which is often
51 influenced by fallen human nature in ways contrary to God's design (Ephesians 4:17-18); and be it further

52

53 RESOLVED, that we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in such psychological
54 manifestations as gender identity confusion and point everyone to the hope of the redemption of our bodies
55 in Christ (Romans 8:23), and be it further

56

57 RESOLVED, we strongly encourage the South Carolina Legislature to draft and pass a law that will prohibit
58 children under the age of 18 from obtaining transgender surgery, receiving puberty-blocking medication, or
59 being subjected to cross-hormone treatment; and be it further

60 RESOLVED, the law also be worded to prevent teachers, school officials, counselors, medical
61 professionals, and all others who may have influence over a minor child from encouraging expressions
62 of gender confusion and from concealing any expressed confusion from the minor child's parent or legal
63 guardian; and be it finally

64
65 RESOLVED, that we commit to pray these things for minor children: a hedge of protection from physical,
66 mental, and spiritual abuse; clarity in the minds of all caregivers to do no harm, intended or otherwise; a
67 revelation or a renewed sense of God's truth which is absolute; and an avenue to hear God's word to feel the
68 Holy Spirit's presence in their lives.

1 **EXHORTING AFFILIATED SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST CONVENTION CHURCHES TO**
2 **DEVELOP BIBLICAL DEFINITIONS AND POLICIES TO CONFRONT SEXUAL ABUSE**

3
4 WHEREAS, the South Carolina Baptist Convention 2022 Sexual Abuse Task Force (Task Force) recognizes
5 the devastating impact of sexual abuse on society, as well as on affiliated churches and their congregations;
6 and

7
8 WHEREAS, as part of its commission to acknowledge sexual abuse and to equip South Carolina Baptist
9 Convention member churches to work to prevent, report, and facilitate healing from the effects of sexual
10 abuse in their congregations; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Bible deems sexual assault/abuse as sin against God (Genesis 34); and

13
14 WHEREAS, explicit passages address non-consensual sexual acts as sexual assault and a violation of God's
15 law (Genesis 12:10–16); and

16
17 WHEREAS, sexual assault/abuse can result in physical and emotional trauma, shame, and loss of self-worth
18 (2 Samuel 13); and

19
20 WHEREAS, every life has been created in the Image of God and has worth, dignity, and value (Genesis
21 1:27); and

22
23 WHEREAS, God ordained the sexual union between a husband and a wife (Genesis 2:24–25), for their
24 pleasure, with the intent to “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28), and to symbolize the
25 one-flesh relationship between Christ and His Church; and

26
27 WHEREAS, anyone who has experienced sexual abuse, can find hope, healing, and freedom in Christ (Luke
28 4:18–19) because He will deliver the needy, the afflicted, and the oppressed and rescue them (Psalm 22:24;
29 Psalm 34:18), and

30
31 WHEREAS, the Sexual Abuse Task Force has defined sexual abuse as:

32 Any sexual activity or harassment, with perpetrators exerting power over the other, making
33 threats against another, or taking advantage of victims. Sexual abuse also includes acts such as
34 exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by any
35 means. The absence of force or coercion does not diminish the abusive nature of the conduct.;
36 therefore, be it

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38 RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the South Carolina Baptist Convention meeting in Irmo, South
39 Carolina, on November 14–15, 2022, exhort churches and their leaders to recognize the potential effect

