



## 2007 Committee on Resolutions Report

The following resolutions are being recommended for consideration by the messengers to the 170<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Nov. 13-14, 2007, by the Committee on Resolutions.

### A Resolution of Appreciation

WHEREAS, the 170<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention has been held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Nov. 13-14, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Cross Over, a special outreach effort to meet human needs and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was held in October and November in the Elizabethtown area to lead up to the annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers and guests from across the state have enjoyed the hospitality of the city of Elizabethtown, Severns Valley Baptist Church and the Severns Valley Baptist Association;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we express our gratitude to the pastor, staff and members of Severns Valley Baptist Church of Elizabethtown; and to the churches of the Severns Valley Baptist Association; for their kindness, hospitality and support of this annual meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our heartfelt gratitude to our convention officers: President Darren Gaddis, First Vice President Kevin Smith, Second Vice President Chad Fugitt, Recording Secretary Wilma Simmons and Assistant Secretary Mike Melloan, and to parliamentarians John Chowning and Scott Kilgore; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our appreciation to Dr. Bill Mackey, his staff, the Committee on Arrangements and the Committee on Order of Business for the planning and preparation to make this annual meeting a success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our appreciation to the mayor of Elizabethtown for the hospitality of the city; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we commend all of those who contributed to make Cross Over and this annual meeting a success.

### A Resolution Commending Dr. Bill D. Whittaker

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill D. Whittaker served as president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College from 1988-2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker has left his position at Clear Creek and now serves as pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker's service at the college was marked by faithfulness to his Lord, humbleness and a dedication to the vision and work of Kentucky Baptists and the Clear Creek Baptist Bible College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker's tenure saw the college become debt-free and receive a reaffirmation of its accreditation through the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker's tenure also saw the successful completion of a capital campaign that led to the construction of a new classroom building and nearly \$1 million in additional endowment for the college; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the college also received accreditation with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker is greatly loved and will be deeply missed in his role at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College,

AND WHEREAS, Dr. Whittaker has been a faithful supporter of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program through leadership including service as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and in various leadership roles promoting the ministries of the Convention and encouraging support of the Cooperative Program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the 170th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention being held in Elizabethtown, Nov. 13-14, 2007, commend and express great gratitude to Dr. Bill D. Whittaker for his excellent service to Kentucky Baptists, along with best wishes and continuing prayers for him and his wife, Rebecca, as they continue their ongoing service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the messengers of this Convention also congratulate Dr. Donnie Fox on his selection as the fifth president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and pledge ongoing prayer for him in his new role and for the ongoing success of the college to the glory of God.

### **A Resolution Opposing Gambling Expansion and Encouraging Churches to Teach About the Dangers of Gambling**

WHEREAS, gambling violates a number of Biblical principles, in that it encourages individuals to put their faith in something other than God (Isaiah 65:11, Exodus 20:3); elevates materialistic gain to a dominant place in a person's life (1 Timothy 6:10, Luke 12:15); encourages gain at the expense of our "neighbors" (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:28-34); discourages a proper work ethic (Exodus 20:9, Ephesians 4:28); and hurts our Christian witness to others (Acts. 10:38, I Corinthians 10:31-33); and

WHEREAS, individuals created in the image of God should be able to live in a just society that seeks to enhance the holistic well-being of each citizen; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of government is to promote the welfare of all of citizens and promote the common good; and

WHEREAS, expanding gambling in the Commonwealth will further encourage gambling addictions, crime, family destruction, personal irresponsibility and the corruption of government; and

WHEREAS, the issue of expanding gambling in the Commonwealth of Kentucky continues to be an issue of ongoing debate within the General Assembly;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage all of our churches to be deliberate in educating their congregations regarding the dangers of gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we as messengers to this convention call on our governor and members of the Kentucky General Assembly to join with Kentucky citizens in finding ways to strengthen our state's economy on sound principles of creative and innovative industrial, educational and technological development rather than on the false hopes of gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the governor and all members of the Kentucky General Assembly to take a stand in support of Kentucky's families and businesses by pledging to oppose the expansion of gambling in our Commonwealth; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage Kentucky Baptists across the Commonwealth to contact the newly-elected governor and their state legislators to express their individual opinions on this issue.

### **A Resolution on the Great Commission**

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, The New Testament pattern of healthy church life is of congregations seeing unbelievers saved (Acts 2:41) and believers growing toward maturity in Christ (Acts 2:42); and

WHEREAS, Every Kentucky community teems with men, women, and children for whom Christ died who have never heard the good news of redemption in Jesus; and

WHEREAS, Our cooperative missions efforts are dependent on a Great Commission outlook in our churches that encompasses compassion and action both locally and globally (Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, The strategies of Satan seem to include lulling some congregations into apathy toward evangelism and some into apathy toward discipleship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention call on our churches and church leaders to commit to prayer for the salvation of the lost in their neighborhoods, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in North America, and throughout the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on pastors and church leaders to train church members—from the earliest moments after conversion—how to win souls; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to use every biblical means—including Sunday schools, small groups, Vacation Bible schools, and community activities—to build relationships and to share the Gospel with non-Christian neighbors, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to include in every service a plea for unbelievers to repentance and faith and for believers to faithful discipleship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to model the Gospel through intentional evangelism, meaningful church membership, and holy, disciplined congregations; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to partner in reaching Kentucky and the nations through generous and sacrificial support of the Cooperative Program.

### **A Resolution on Abuse and the Protection of Children**

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus tells us we will be judged on how we cared for “the least of these, my brethren” (Matt 25:40); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord further commanded us to let the children come to Him for “of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14), warning about severe judgment for anyone who would “offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:2); and

WHEREAS, The Bible calls ministers of the gospel—whether they are pastors, counselors, educators, missionaries, chaplains, or others—to be above reproach morally, both within the body of Christ and in the larger community (1 Tim 3:1-13); and

WHEREAS, The holiness of our triune God and the gospel of Jesus Christ require the highest levels of integrity in personal, family, ministerial, and business relations (Ps 78:72; 101:1-3; Prov 10:9; 2 Cor 1:12-13); and

WHEREAS, Ministers and church leaders serve as trusted members of the community, in public ministry, in personal and family counseling contexts, and as private citizens; and

WHEREAS, The erosion of moral fidelity and protection of children has reached crisis proportion in North American culture; and

WHEREAS, Recent years have seen numerous examples exposed where ministers and church leaders have abused their positions within churches to abuse children, teenagers, and other vulnerable persons within the church; and

WHEREAS, Sexual infidelity and other violations of ministerial integrity always have tragic consequences for those who are victimized and for others indirectly impacted by those transgressions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, urge our pastors and church leaders to lead our churches in teaching and example toward integrity and fidelity to God and to one another; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to implement appropriate measures to enhance the safety and security of children, teenagers, and other vulnerable persons within their ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That these initiatives should include—but not be limited to—rigorous background screening for prospective employees and volunteers, training programs for paid and volunteer workers on how to recognize and report the signs of abuse, strict parameters for the counseling practices of ministers and church leaders, and policies for appropriate Internet use on church computers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our churches to show no tolerance for any mistreatment or abuse, thoroughly investigating and punishing abusers through both biblical church discipline (1 Cor 5:1-13) and through the handing over to the civil authorities who stand in the place of God to punish evildoers (Rom 13:1-7); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on our Mission Board staff to provide materials, resources, and training opportunities to aid churches in establishing and implementing safety and security practices for our churches; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we pray for those who have been harmed as a result of abuse and urge our churches to offer support, compassion, and biblical counseling to them and their families.

### **Other Properly Submitted Resolutions**

In addition to the above resolutions, the Committee on Resolutions also received a properly submitted resolution from Mr. Richard R. Gregory of High Street Baptist Church, Somerset, entitled: "To observe the Sabbath on the day and in the manner that God commands us to."

The committee carefully considered this resolution but decided not to report this resolution out of committee due to the fact that observation of the Lord's Day is addressed adequately in both the 1963 and 2000 editions of the Baptist Faith and Message (Section VIII – "The Lord's Day").

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Rice, chair; Steve James; Ray England; Russell Moore; Bill F. Mackey, ex officio; Darren Gaddis, ex officio