

The 2019 Committee on Resolutions has received several communications. We acknowledge each proposal and convey our thanks and appreciation to those who have exercised their right of free and open communication by presenting their views to this convention. The committee has taken each of these proposed resolutions under prayerful consideration and has been unanimous in its deliberations.

Kelvin Cochran, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, presented the report.

### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

Submitted by the 2019 Committee on Resolutions

Members: Kelvin Cochran, John Barber, David Chancey, Chris Parkin, Brad Reynolds

**WHEREAS**, the 198<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention met at New Hope Baptist Church North, Fayetteville, Georgia on November 11-12, 2019 in which the messengers representing Georgia Baptist Churches were greeted with Christian grace and warm Southern hospitality; and

**WHEREAS**, the pastor of New Hope Baptist Church North, the church staff, church members and many volunteers have tirelessly served the needs of every messenger to the Georgia Baptist Convention in fellowship of the Lord: *"What we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may also have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3 CSB)*; and

**WHEREAS**, the musicians, choirs and worship leaders have provided thrilling praise and uplifting celebration in every convention session; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fairburn Baptist Association of churches has demonstrated second-mile cooperation, service and hospitality in preparation for and during the meeting;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that we, the messengers of the 198<sup>th</sup> session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, offer sincere appreciation to the leaders and members of New Hope Baptist Church North, together with Dr. Ron Wildes and the churches of the Fairburn Baptist Association for their hospitality and service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the messengers of this session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, express our loving appreciation for and extend our heartfelt blessing to Dr. Robby Foster, president of our beloved Convention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the messengers of this session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, extend honor and thanksgiving to the officers and platform leaders for their guidance and service throughout this meeting; and, we express gratitude to Mrs. Laura Foster and family for their loving support of our president and Convention during this past year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we also express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to God for those who serve on the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee, as well as the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff who faithfully serve the causes of Christ here in Georgia and around the world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we commend the Committee on Order of Business and Josh Saefkow, Chairman, for the preparation of this inspirational program; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that we, the messengers of this Convention, join our President Robby Foster and new Executive Director, Thomas Hammond, in continuing to emphasize and practice the challenging theme, *ImpACT: Acts 17:6 "...these men who have turned the world upside down have come here too."*

**A RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION FOR MR. DELOS SHARPTON**

Submitted by the Board of Trustees of Baptist Village, Inc.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Delos L. Sharpton has served Baptist Village, Inc. ("Baptist Village") for a period of twenty (20) years; and

**WHEREAS**, for most of those years he has served as President/Chief Executive Officer of Baptist Village; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure: Mr. Sharpton has been dedicated to Baptist Village and its ministries; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sharpton has served ably, with distinction and has brought continuing prestige, honor, and respect to Baptist Village; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Sharpton has announced his retirement as President/Chief Executive Officer effective on or about January 3, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trustees of Baptist Village, Inc. wish to recognize and commend Mr. Sharpton for his years of outstanding, invaluable service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trustees of Baptist Village, Inc. desire to set forth in Resolution form the retirement benefits for Mr. Sharpton therewith; and

**WHEREAS**, said matter being considered.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Baptist Village, Inc. as follows:

1. That Baptist Village Trustees, associates, residents, and others are urged to congratulate Mr. Delos Sharpton upon his retirement announcement and take every opportunity to celebrate his distinguished, exemplary and exceptional leadership between this day and his retirement on or about January 3, 2020.
2. In recognition of twenty (20) years of dedicated service and exceptional leadership Baptist Village gave various gifts to Mr. Delos Sharpton and will give due consideration to naming a future building, building wing, or other, in honor of Mr. Delos Sharpton.
3. The Board of Trustees of Baptist Village profoundly thanks and commends Mr. Delos Sharpton for his remarkable, dedicated and immeasurable service to Baptist Village, its residents and staff, past and present.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE FOR  
GEORGIA BAPTIST MISSION BOARD STATE MISSIONARIES AND SUPPORT STAFF**  
Submitted by David L. Chancey, Messenger, McDonough Road Baptist Church, Fayetteville

**WHEREAS**, Paul gave thanks in many of his epistles for fellow Christian servants (Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3; I Thessalonians 1:2; II Thessalonians 1:3; II Timothy 1:3; Philemon 4); and

**WHEREAS**, many Georgia Baptist Mission Board state missionaries and support persons were impacted by a reduction in force; and

**WHEREAS**, these state missionaries and support persons served Georgia Baptist churches, pastors, staff members and leaders with great faithfulness and dedication for many years;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the messengers of this 198<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention express heartfelt, sincere gratitude to these servants for their faithful ministry to Georgia Baptists.

## **Resolution on Protecting our Children and Vulnerable Individuals**

Submitted by Josh Saefkow, messenger from Flat Creek Baptist Church, Fayetteville

**WHEREAS**, God has created all people in His image and God welcomes and values the children and the vulnerable (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:14); and

**WHEREAS**, as a community of believers, we have a responsibility to protect children and vulnerable individuals from sexual abuse and other wrongs; and

**WHEREAS**, violent physical and sexual crimes against children and the vulnerable have reached alarming levels in our nation evidencing that abuse is a leading issue that requires the urgent response of God's people, our churches and religious leaders, and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the messengers to the 198<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention convening in Fayetteville, Georgia, do condemn all forms of sexual abuse against children and vulnerable individuals and urge that our churches and institutions work diligently to immediately enhance their efforts to prevent abuse and to care for abuse survivors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all Georgia Baptists churches should consider participating in the 5-part safety system described by MinistrySafe to be:

- Awareness Training – this provides the foundation for the 5-part safety system and is to identify misconceptions and replace misconceptions with information that is important and valuable to protect children and the vulnerable.
- Skillful Screening Process – the skillful screening process ensures that the correct team is onboard and is available to determine more effectively that an applicant or volunteer has the right background and motives for working with children or the vulnerable.
- Policies and Procedures – effective policies and procedures minimize or prevent risk and are truly effective only when they are designed to address the concerns of the unique program type.
- Background Checks – this is an important element of the system but cannot serve as a standalone screening system, as less than 10% of sexual abusers encounter the criminal justice system; however, at the same time there are distinct advantages and protections to utilizing a carefully designed and legally compliant background check process.
- Monitoring and Oversight – after the system is in place work must continue to ensure that the system will contain checks and balances to monitor supervision, training compliance, and system accountability.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we urge churches, religious institutions, and all Georgia Baptists to participate in the Caring Well Challenge, an initiative of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, which was formed to unite the efforts of Southern Baptist churches to ensure that we are doing all that we can for our congregations to become safe from abuse and a safe place for survivors.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all Georgia Baptists should call on government officials to strengthen laws that protect our children and other vulnerable individuals.

### **RESOLUTION ON GENDER DYSPHORIA AND ITS TREATMENT**

Submitted by: Judy Craft, Messenger of First Redeemer Church, Cumming, GA

**WHEREAS**, in the beginning, God created male and female in His image (Gen 1:27); and  
**WHEREAS**, our broken culture has left many innocent children without even the vital foundation of certainty about their own God-given sex; and

**WHEREAS**, the families of these gender-dysphoric children are seeking answers from the mental-health and medical communities; and

**WHEREAS**, too often those communities are guiding the families and children toward dangerous and experimental treatments including medications to delay the normal bodily development of puberty, cross-sex hormones (estrogen for boys, testosterone for girls) to feminize or masculinize the body's appearance, and even surgeries to remove healthy body parts and create non-functioning imitations of others; and

**WHEREAS**, most of these treatments are irreversible in their effects; and

**WHEREAS**, the full long-term effects of these treatments have not been studied and are unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, the known medical risks of these treatments include sterilization, heart disease, strokes, blood clots, cancers, bone weakness, and severe depression; and

**WHEREAS**, these medical treatments and procedures amount to treating the symptoms rather than the underlying psychological causes of gender dysphoria; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of children who suffer gender dysphoria will outgrow it if given psychotherapy rather than medical treatments and if allowed to develop normally; and

**WHEREAS**, no reliable research shows that these treatments improve children's psychological outcomes, and in fact the best research shows that patients who do undergo these treatments persist in their psychological disorders and distress;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the messengers to the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting at New Hope Baptist Church North, in Fayetteville, Georgia, November 11-12, 2019 strongly urge the Governor and members of the Georgia House and Senate to enact legislation prohibiting the administration of puberty-blocking drugs, cross-sex hormones, and sex-reassignment surgery to minors as a treatment for gender dysphoria; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we oppose any legislation that would restrict legitimate psychotherapy to help patients resolve gender dysphoria by addressing underlying psychological problems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we encourage all believers to love and show compassion toward all persons, including those struggling with gender dysphoria, 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); and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of the state of Georgia.