

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE 2018

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Submitted by the 2018 Committee on Resolutions

Members: David Mills, chairman, Tim Jones, Thomas Hill, Mac McCurry, Jack Lee, Otis White

WHEREAS, the 197th Annual Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention met at the Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia on November 12-13, 2018, in which the messengers representing Georgia Baptist Churches were greeted with Christian grace and warm Southern hospitality; and

WHEREAS, the pastor of Second Baptist Church, Dr. Jim Perdue, 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 with us; and indeed our fellowship 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 Rehoboth 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 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, offer sincere appreciation to the leaders and members of the Second Baptist Church, together with Rev. Tim Millwood and the churches of the Rehoboth 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 Rev. Mike Stone, president of our Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express gratitude to Mrs. Andrea Stone and family for their loving support of our president and Convention during this past year; 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,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to God for 26 years of loyal service provided by our esteemed Executive Director, Dr. J. Robert White. We further express appreciation to 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 Dr. Don Hattaway, Chairman, for the preparation of this inspirational program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we thank God for bringing our new Executive Director, Rev. Thomas Hammond, to serve Georgia Baptists and we commit our prayers and support to him and his family; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of this Convention, join our beloved President and Executive Director in continuing to emphasize and practice the challenging theme, *“Mission Possible: reaching generation yet”* (Psalms 78:1-8), *“...that we should teach the ways of our LORD to our children, the next generation, and even to those yet to be born.”*

RESOLUTION ON HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

Submitted by: Tom Rush, Messenger from Liberty Baptist Church, Hartwell, GA

WHEREAS, The Georgia General Assembly in 2018 introduced hate crimes legislation such as House Bill 660, House Bill 663 and Senate Bill 316 which included special class protections for sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention passed in 2007 a similar resolution regarding the dangers of federal hate crimes legislation; and

WHEREAS, Such hate crimes legislation violates the Scripture (Proverbs 24:23), and the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection under the law by extending special protected status to certain groups of people that is not available for others; and

WHEREAS, Such hate crimes legislation criminalizes beliefs as well as actions, creating a form of thought crime in violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Such hate crimes legislation is particularly troubling in providing special protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity, because neither constitutes an immutable characteristic such as race, ethnicity, or biological sex but rather is based upon a lifestyle choice, and because opposition to such choices is grounded not in bigotry but in the Scripture's clear distinctions regarding masculine and feminine roles as ordained by God as a part of the created order (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19: 4-6; Romans 1: 26-27; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:12-14); and

WHEREAS, Where such hate crimes laws have been passed, they have been used to actively punish Christians who peacefully voice their moral opposition to homosexual conduct; and

WHEREAS, This year at the Turning Point USA High School Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-Texas) said, "I knew 10 years ago, when hate crime legislation was being pushed, that it would one day be used to persecute Christians, and that is coming about – U.S. Commission on Civil Rights talks about this hate group, evangelical Christians."; and

WHEREAS, Many Christian leaders and pro-family organizations are alarmed at the prospect of a law in which a person's thoughts or opinions alone could lead to state prosecution; and

WHEREAS, The application of this kind of legislation could potentially abridge Constitutional freedom of speech and criminalize biblical preaching and speaking truth about sins such as homosexual conduct; and

WHEREAS, We believe that all people should be treated with respect and dignity because all are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28), and we also believe that no one should ever be mistreated or abused for any reason, including his or her beliefs or lifestyle concerning sexuality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting at Second Baptist Church, in Warner Robins, Georgia, November 12-13, 2018, strongly urge the Governor and members of the Georgia House and Senate to reject these and any other bills that create a special protected status for certain groups, violating the U.S. Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection and First Amendment right to freedom of speech; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, That we urge all Georgians to avoid acts of hatred and violence toward any persons, including homosexuals and people struggling with gender dysphoria, but treat our fellow citizens with the kind of civility we would prefer to receive ourselves (Matthew 7:12); and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all believers to love and show compassion toward all persons, including homosexuals and people 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, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of the state of Georgia.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR DR. J. ROBERT WHITE

Submitted by the 2018 Committee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention met at Second Baptist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia, November 12—13, 2018 for Dr. J. Robert White's final session as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White transitioned from an effective and generous pastorate at First Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky to serve Georgia Baptists in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White announced his retirement as Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board in 2018 after twenty-six years of stellar service to Christ, Georgia Baptists, Southern Baptists, and the world; and

WHEREAS, in his role as Executive Director, Dr. J. Robert White excelled as a preacher of God's word and the gospel of Jesus Christ in thousands of Georgia Baptist churches and all the Baptist associations in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White pastored countless ministers and their families and the staff of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board with Christlike love and graciousness;

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White set an example in personal and pulpit evangelism, and often shared his experiences of witnessing and leading others to faith in Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White has modeled Christian marriage and family with Janice and their daughters and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White wisely and gently shepherded the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and its institutions through troubled times; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White proved himself and Georgia Baptists to be reliable Cooperative Program Champions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White stood graciously and firmly for godly moral and social principles, and communicated these to Georgia Baptists, Georgia Legislators, and Georgia's Governors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J. Robert White served the larger Southern Baptist family as an advocate for the gospel, missions, evangelism, and the Cooperative Program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, offer unbridled gratitude to our gracious God for Dr. J. Robert White; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, express our deepest appreciation for Dr. J. Robert White for making himself a mighty, Christlike tool in the hands of God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, thank Janice White for her loyal support for Dr. J. Robert White and her example and love for Georgia Baptists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, express our joyful anticipation of the leadership Dr. J. Robert White will provide to Georgia Baptists in his service as President/CEO of the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 197th Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention, look forward to many more years of service, fellowship, missions, giving, and evangelism with Dr. J. Robert White.