

Resolutions
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF OKLAHOMA
November 16, 2010

Resolution No. 1
On Appreciation to Host Facility

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, convey our deep appreciation to President David W. Whitlock, the faculty, staff, and students for their countless hours of preparation and their outstanding hospitality during these meetings.

Resolution No. 2
On Oklahoma Baptist University

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, join all Oklahoma Baptists in celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma Baptist University. We affirm the vision of the founders of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to establish a Christian university founded on the principles and commands of Holy Scripture. We recognize OBU's academic excellence as it remains Oklahoma's highest ranked institution of higher education and pledge our ongoing support to its mission to provide the highest quality of education to students from across the nation and around the world.

Resolution No. 3
On the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, affirm the work of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma as a Great Commission partner in service to the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We remain grateful for the legacy given to us and stand committed to the ongoing work of this state convention to train pastors and church leaders to engage their world with the Gospel, assist them in evangelizing Oklahoma, coordinate the ministry of disaster relief both at home and abroad, and facilitate the opportunities for missionary engagement around the world through partnership missions.

Resolution No. 4
On Biblical Stewardship

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, stand as debtors to the mercy and grace of God in Jesus Christ as those born again by the Spirit of God. We affirm that our lives and all the resources placed into our hands are gifts from God that require our faithful stewardship to ensure they are used in service for the Kingdom of God. Whereas national surveys indicate that the average church member gives only 2.5 percent of his income to the local church, we call on Oklahoma Baptist churches, pastors, and leaders to teach and challenge grace giving beginning with the tithe as the starting point of a generous lifestyle of obedience as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Resolution No. 5
On the Cooperative Program

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, seek to stand in obedience to the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ. As servants of His Church, we will give sacrificially through prayer, service, and monetary gifts for the advancement of the Gospel. As Oklahoma Baptists, we believe the Cooperative Program stands as a trusted sacred effort and a stable means of financial stewardship whereby local congregations can extend their reach across Oklahoma, our nation, and the world to advance the Kingdom of God. We commend our churches for their consistent and generous support of the Cooperative Program and call on Oklahoma Baptist churches to make a renewed commitment to the Cooperative Program as a priority for investment and growth in the coming years. Furthermore, we affirm that designated gifts are to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for the Cooperative Program as the primary channel of cooperative missions and ministry by Oklahoma Baptist churches.

Resolution No. 6
On Immigration and the Gospel

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, are committed to taking the message and love of Christ to people of all races and nationalities throughout Oklahoma and the world. We as Christians are under Biblical mandate to respect the institution of government and its just laws. Accordingly, we believe that all citizens and immigrants should obey the laws of the land. We commit to follow the Biblical principle of caring for the foreigners among us and to be a neighbor to those in need, regardless of their racial or ethnic background, country of origin, or legal status. We are committed to ministering to those who are lost and sharing the Gospel to the ends of the Earth.

Resolution No. 7
On Dangers of Human Trafficking

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, recognize and condemn the worldwide scourge of human trafficking. Oklahoma Baptists resolve to become better informed about this travesty and seek ways to right this terrible wrong. We commit to educate our children and youth about the dangers threatening them and prayerfully endeavor to actively help those ensnared to escape its grasp.

Resolution No. 8
On Sanctity of Life, Foster Care, and Adoption

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, recognize that human life begins at conception and ends at natural death and any termination of innocent human life is forbidden by God. Oklahoma Baptists commit to support mothers who choose life and provide loving homes, congregations, and communities for their children, exposing them to Christ's love. We are thankful to active families who give time, energy, and love to help raise these precious children of God. Considering the more than 8,200 children currently in the foster care system in Oklahoma, we challenge each congregation to support foster and adoptive families in their church and community and commit to raise awareness for the need for more. We commend the efforts of Oklahomans who are active in the passage of all pro-life state or federal legislation and will continue the fight for life. We resolve to promote Rose Day (February 9, 2011) as an effective means to demonstrate our convictions concerning the sanctity of all human life.

Resolution No. 9
On Sanctity of Marriage

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, recognize God established the institution of marriage and defined marriage as the union between one man and one woman for life. Biblical marriage is under attack at the state and national levels, with regard to same-sex unions, the convenience of divorce, and cohabitation. We oppose and firmly stand against any legislation or decisions by the courts that seek to expand the definition of marriage and/or the destruction of such union. We encourage state and national legislators to protect the sanctity of Biblical marriage and commend their unwavering stance for family values. To affirm the sanctity of marriage, we urge Oklahoma Baptists to emphasize the importance of Biblical preaching, teaching, premarital and marriage counseling, and mentorship.

Resolution No. 10
On Recognition of State and National Legislators

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, congratulate all newly elected legislators of our great state and nation. We humbly pledge our fervent prayer support as they serve their constituencies by giving of themselves tirelessly to uphold the laws of our state and nation. Furthermore, we publicly acknowledge our responsibility to pray for and intercede on behalf of all legislators and President Barack H. Obama, in order that the citizens of these United States of America may lead quiet and peaceable lives in this nation under God. We pray for the protection of all elected governmental officials and their families. We further pray they honor their duty to uphold a culture of Biblical family values in order to keep our nation strong. We honor those legislators who serve with integrity, uncompromising Biblical conviction, and moral courage.

Resolution No. 11
On Support of the United States Military

We, the messengers to the 2010 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma, November 15-16, 2010, commend the sacrifice and service of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. We stand grateful for their commitment to justice and the preservation of liberty for our nation and the world. We encourage Oklahoma Baptists to pray for their safety and serve those families who have suffered loss. We further encourage active support to the families who are left behind during seasons of deployment.