

ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS November 2017

Resolution No. 1

On Appreciation to Host Church for the 2017 Annual Meeting

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, express our deep appreciation to Dr. Hance Dilbeck and to the staff and congregation of Quail Springs for the countless hours of preparation and support for this annual meeting. We further state that this church is an outstanding model of genuine Christian service and hospitality. We offer our prayers for God's continued blessing in future ministry endeavors of this great church.

(Philippians 1:3-11; Philemon 4-7)

Resolution No. 2

On Falls Creek's 100th Anniversary

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, express our great gratitude to God for putting a vision in the hearts of J.B. Rounds and W.D. Moorer to establish Falls Creek in 1917. Throughout the last 100 years, Falls Creek has become one of the largest Christian youth encampments in the world and is a spiritual landmark for thousands. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the focus at Falls Creek, and God has poured out His abundant blessings including 68,000-plus professions of faith and 36,000-plus calls to vocational ministry. We thank God that Falls Creek has become a first-class encampment where events—including Indian Falls Creek (now celebrating its 70th year), ministry retreats, and more—advance the Gospel. We thank God that the Centennial year of Falls Creek has been one that saw a record number of young people come to repentance and faith in Christ, with 2,580 professions of faith. We are grateful to Oklahoma Baptist churches for taking part in the Centennial weekend, in which more than 11,000 attended and thousands more viewed online. It is our prayer that, until the Lord returns, God will continue to pour out His blessings on the place called Falls Creek.

(John 3:16; I Cor. 2:1-5)

Resolution No. 3

On Appreciation to Dr. Anthony Jordan

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, celebrate Dr. Anthony Jordan's tenure as Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma over the last 21-plus years. From the historic facility improvements at Falls Creek to furthering the work of evangelism, from protecting the unborn to pioneering partnership missions to enhancing disaster relief ministry, "Dr. J" has been at the forefront of leading Oklahoma Baptist churches to impact lostness in Oklahoma. Under his effective ministry, the BGCO has become a leading state convention in Southern Baptist life, unified under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We applaud and congratulate Anthony Jordan upon his forthcoming retirement in 2018. We pray God's blessings upon Anthony and Polla Jordan and their entire family.

(1 Timothy 5:17; Heb. 13:7)

Resolution No. 4

On Condemning White Supremacy, Alt-Right & Racism

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, affirm that Scripture teaches every person is made in the image of God and that God does not show favoritism, with Jesus purchasing by His blood believers “from every tribe and language and people and nation.” We know from our Southern Baptist history the effects of the horrific sins of racism and hatred; and that in 1995, the Southern Baptist Convention repudiated “historic acts of evil, such as slavery,” and also committed “to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry.” We recognize that racism and white supremacy are, sadly, not extinct but present all over the world in various movements. We denounce and decry every form of racism, including alt-right and any organization that advocates white supremacy, as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that we still must make progress in rooting out any remaining forms of racism, both personal and systemic, from our midst; and we disassociate from erroneous teachings such as the so-called “curse of Ham.” We earnestly pray for those impacted by the evils of racism. We also pray for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are thereby deceived, that they may see their error through the light of the Gospel.

(Gen. 1:26-28; Acts 10:34-35; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9)

Resolution No. 5

On Speaking Up for People with Disabilities

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, believe strongly in the inherent worth of every man, woman, and child. We decry and reject the alarming trend that suggests babies diagnosed with genetic abnormalities, such as Down syndrome, should be aborted. We are troubled that there is a rising belief in America and abroad that views some people, such as those with genetic abnormalities or disabilities, as unfit to live. We, therefore, want to stand with and speak up for people—born and unborn—who may have disabilities, knowing that Jesus loves all the people of the world.

(1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139; Matt. 19:14)

Resolution No. 6

On Foster Care

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, appreciate the many Oklahoma Baptist families and churches who have stepped up to meet the foster care crisis in Oklahoma. Since the 2015 annual meeting, at which time Oklahoma Baptists were challenged to pray and do more to address the crisis of approximately 11,000 Oklahoma children in DHS custody, more than 500 churches have participated in the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children *One Such Child* foster care initiative in some way. Since November of 2015, more than 150 referrals for foster care have been made through *One Such Child*, and five training events for foster families have taken place. We thank God for these and other positive developments related to foster care as a result of Oklahoma Baptist involvement, even while we understand the urgent and vast foster care needs continue for the approximately 9,500 children in DHS custody today.

(Matthew 25:40; James 1:27)

Resolution No. 7**On Prayer, Discipleship & Personal Evangelism**

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, recognize the vast lostness in the world. We earnestly seek God to give us strength to recommit to fervent prayer and personal evangelism, knowing that through His Great Commission, Christ calls His followers to make disciples. We pray that the Lord will continue to call out workers into the harvest, so many will come to a saving faith in Christ, to the Glory of God.

(Matthew 9:38; Matthew 28:16-20; 2 Thess. 3:1)

Resolution No. 8**On Abortion Facilities & Pregnancy Resource Centers/Ministries**

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, believing in the sanctity, dignity, and full value of each human life as created by God from conception to natural death, stand with those who are seeking to protect unborn children. We are alarmed by the rising number of abortion facilities in Oklahoma. Since the time Oklahoma Baptists founded a pregnancy resource center in 1986, a growing network of pregnancy resource centers has been established across the state. These faith-based pregnancy resource centers serve an increasingly important role as beacons of light and hope amid a culture of death. We offer our continued prayer and support for this ministry, which has offered hope and tangible help to parents and unborn children at their point of need, sharing the life-giving Gospel message.

(Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139; Matthew 18:6; John 10:10)

Resolution No. 9**On Disaster Relief Ministry**

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, applaud the continued work of Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, which has played a leading role in relief efforts following the recent devastating hurricanes and other disasters. For more than 40 years, Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief has provided relief and hope to victims of disasters. Most recently, Oklahoma Baptists and Southern Baptists as a whole have prepared more than 1.3 million meals, helped clear storm debris for thousands, as well as shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with many affected by hurricanes and other disasters. During Sam Porter's 20-year tenure serving as Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief director, the volunteer operation grew to more than 6,000 trained volunteers who have served in Oklahoma and around the world. That number of trained volunteers only continues to grow under the leadership of current director Don Williams, as people of all ages are stepping forward to serve. We applaud and support the efforts of our Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, who have been the hands and feet of Jesus to the hurting, and we continue to offer our prayer and support to those we are serving through this vital ministry.

(Matthew 10:42; 25:35-36; Mark 10:45)

Resolution No. 10

On Praying for Sutherland Springs, Texas

We, the messengers to the 2017 Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, meeting at Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 13-14, 2017, are deeply grieved and brokenhearted about the loss of life and devastation that took place at the Nov. 5 shooting at First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas. An attack on the Body of Christ, as happened to our dear brothers and sisters in Texas, is an attack on all of us. Through tears, we resolve to stand with them in continual prayer, asking the God of All Comfort to bring His grace, peace, and healing to the hurting. We long for the Day of Jesus Christ's return, in which sin and death are swallowed in victory.

(Psalm 46:1; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 54-57)