

## **Resolutions and Christian Life Committee Report**

The Committee met March 12 to discuss potential resolutions to be presented at the 2024 IBSA Annual Meeting and assigned topics to members. The Committee then reviewed drafted resolutions at its September 12 meeting.

The Committee recommends the following resolutions for vote at the 2024 IBSA Annual Meeting. Any additional resolutions by messengers are to be submitted by 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12. The Committee will meet to discuss any newly submitted resolutions, and either prepare those resolutions for presentation and vote at the afternoon session on Wednesday, November 13 or recommend that they be referred to the 2025 Resolutions and Christian Life Committee for further work and consideration.

### **Resolution on Appreciation to Ashburn Baptist Church**

WHEREAS, Ashburn Baptist Church has clearly demonstrated the gift of biblical hospitality in hosting the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Tommy Thompson, along with the staff and members of Ashburn Baptist Church and its multiple campuses, have reflected generosity and the cooperative spirit of the IBSA family by giving of their time, resources, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the church has extended exemplary cooperation in working with IBSA officers, staff, and leadership; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2024 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 12-13 at Ashburn Baptist Church in Orland Park, Illinois, express our deepest appreciation and commit to pray for God's continued blessing on this church as they seek to serve their community and the Lord, as he transforms lives through the power of the gospel.

### **Resolution on the Centennial Anniversary of the SBC Cooperative Program**

WHEREAS, in 2025 Southern Baptists will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, upon the establishment of the Cooperative Program, M.E. Dodd, Chairman of the Commission on the Future Program, exhorted Southern Baptists toward "a unity of purpose and consecration never known before;" and

WHEREAS, since 1925 the Cooperative Program has provided a comprehensive funding mechanism for like-minded Baptist churches to support missions in all the world, all the time, at the same time (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, the biblical principle of cooperation compels us to work together and thereby have greater impact for our collaborative efforts (Acts 15:25-26; Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 9:12; 3 John 5-6); and

WHEREAS, over the past 100 years, Illinois Baptists have contributed millions of dollars through the Cooperative Program to fund missionaries, disaster relief efforts, church planting, church revitalization, chaplaincies, evangelistic initiatives, discipleship strategies, pastor care, Christian education, Baptist communications, human needs ministries, and more; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists have made a great commitment to our missionaries, both at home and abroad,

and to our larger family of Baptist workers whose Great Commission efforts are supported and sustained through Cooperative Program giving; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 3 of the IBSA Constitution states that a church will be deemed “cooperating” when it has “contributed financially through IBSA to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association meeting in Orland Park, IL, November 12-13, 2024, enthusiastically affirm the Cooperative Program as our primary method of funding our Great Commission cooperation at home and abroad; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we ascribe thanksgiving and glory to God for blessing the partnership in the gospel we have known through Cooperative Program giving for 100 years (Phil. 1:3-5); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we are grateful for the churches that give faithfully and sacrificially through the Cooperative Program and for all who all who openly promote, support, and commit to the Cooperative Program among our family of churches, associations, and ministry partners; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we recommit ourselves to the celebration and promotion of the Cooperative Program within our churches, associations, and entities, especially during its 100th year.

### **Resolution on Continued Affirmation and Celebration of the Baptist Faith & Message as its Centennial Anniversary Approaches**

WHEREAS, the year 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention’s doctrinal statement, The Baptist Faith and Message, that helped summarize the biblical basis of our overall unity and cooperation together as Southern Baptists; and

WHEREAS, this unity and cooperation enables autonomous churches to partner together and advance the gospel locally, regionally, nationally, and globally in order to fulfill the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, this voluntary partnership calls for an ongoing commitment to both biblical unity and missional cooperation; and

WHEREAS, our unity as IBSA churches is established on the inerrant, infallible, and inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21); and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 1 of the IBSA Constitution states that we adopt as our sole authority “the Bible as the basis for all our faith and practice,” and that any confessions of faith constitute a “consensus of opinion” for general instruction and guidance “concerning those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us;” (Article III, Section 3); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we will continue to strive for unity together around God’s Word as the basis of our cooperation which this association of churches believes to be faithfully summarized in The Baptist Faith and Message 1925, 1963, 1998, and 2000 (rev. 2023); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will continue to strive for doctrinal fidelity and clarity around the essentials of our faith, and the Good News of Jesus Christ, which will enable us to continue to cooperate together, even amidst otherwise tertiary differences as autonomous local churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this ongoing commitment to The Baptist Faith & Message will be for the sake of God’s mission to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **Resolution on Unity in the Church, Community, and Home following the 2024 Election**

WHEREAS, a resolution for unity following the national election was presented for consideration and adopted during the 2020 IBSA Annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, our nation continues in a state of political, moral, and spiritual brokenness that can only be changed through the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ, through his Spirit, has united his people under his lordship and has commanded believers to join in joyfully reconciling, redeeming, and restoring sinners to their Creator through his gospel; and

WHEREAS, Scripture urges unity among believers through a spirit of humility, gentleness, patience, and love (Eph. 4:3), and reminds us that we must submit ourselves to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established (Rom. 13:1); and

WHEREAS, cooperation of churches in the Illinois Baptist State Association is based, not on political beliefs, party affiliation, or support for particular candidates in any election, but on unity in the work of elevating Jesus Christ in the church, community, and home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2024 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 12-13 at Ashburn Baptist Church in Orland Park, Illinois, do hereby seek to set an example of unity, showing the world that we are Jesus' disciples by the way we love each other, even in our political differences; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that our hope and our pursuits in this life are ultimately guided by our hope in Christ Jesus and not by the results of an election, and regardless of the outcome of said election, we, as members of Christ's church will seek to pursue peace in our nation and in our Association, thanking God especially for giving us a fellowship that celebrates unity and cooperation among autonomous church bodies, respecting one another; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage all Southern Baptist churches in Illinois and nationwide to continue elevating Jesus Christ above all political parties or partisan stances in the church, community, and home, and to deepen our commitment to cooperate with unity in the mission of advancing God's Kingdom during this election season and beyond.

## **Resolution on the Office of Pastor/Elder/Overseer**

WHEREAS, the Baptist Faith and Message, (2000, rev. 2023) affirms that a New Testament church is "an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers," (Article VI.) and the Holy Bible, the Scriptures, are "the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried." and

WHEREAS, Galatians 3:26-29 states that "there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female," recognizing that the church welcomes people who come from all ethnic backgrounds, different sociopolitical status, and both genders, and calls them all to come and find their truer identity in Christ; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Spirit bestows all believers, both men and women, with varied gifts as indicated in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 and all are encouraged to use their gifts for the building up of the church; and

WHEREAS, the early church recognized women in significant roles of service to the church, as recorded in Romans 16:1-15, Acts 18:24-26, and 1 Corinthians 16:19; and

WHEREAS, the scriptures, in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:2-7, when giving the qualifications for pastors/elders/overseers use masculine language; and

WHEREAS, 1 Timothy 2:12-14 indicates that the primary authorities in the church under the headship of Christ are to be male, recognizing this as rooted in the order of creation and the fall; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Baptist State Association recognizes autonomous churches who hold to various Baptist confessions of faith, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2024 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 12-13, at Ashburn Baptist Church in Orland Park, Illinois, affirm our agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message (2000, rev. 2023) that “two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon,” and that “while both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.” And be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists will endeavor to prayerfully encourage the service of spiritually qualified and gifted men and women in our autonomous churches within the guidance of the Scriptures’ teaching on the offices of the church.

### **Resolution on the Commitment to Strong and Successful Marriages**

WHEREAS, the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 (rev. 2023) states that “God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society,” and that “Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime;” and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists joyfully and steadfastly rely on the Holy Bible as true and totally trustworthy, without any mixture of error; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Psychological Association, approximately 40-50% of first marriages and 60-67% of second marriages end in divorce, due to some valid, yet many other invalid and unbiblical reasons, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2024 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 12-13 at Ashburn Baptist Church in Orland Park, Illinois, grieve deeply the spiritual and mental anguish that families have suffered due to the current state of the institution of marriage in our country; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage pastors, officiants, and other leaders of the church to take seriously their commitment to strong biblical marriages by counseling with couples before marriage in order to ensure that there is an understanding that marriage is a commitment between one man and one woman, as well as a covenant with God, to remain bound together as one flesh (Mrk. 10:8) until only death shall separate (Mrk. 10:9), and they should also determine, through such counseling, whether or not the couple should be counseled to continue forward in marriage, especially if there is evidence that there may be an issue or issues that will seriously hinder the marriage, being the voice of reason when needed, and to consider excluding themselves from the wedding when necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we, as members of the body of Christ will also seek to encourage and promote strong marriages within our churches, even among those in leadership, by being vigilant to encourage couples, providing opportunities for education and growth, and by bearing one another’s burdens (Gal. 6:2), and we will also take seriously our commitments within our own marriages, and seek to love and respect (Eph. 5:22-26) our spouses according to God’s description of love (1 Cor. 13:4-8); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we will endeavor to help struggling families find peace in Christ that is beyond under-

standing (Phil. 4:7), love amongst the saints that is without hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9) and hope in the future where God makes all things new (Rev. 21:5).

**Respectfully submitted:**

Rich Barnett  
Allen Boland  
Cliff Easter  
Debbie Giacomo, Secretary  
Tom Gray  
John Howard  
Tom Rains, Vice Chair  
Barry Sink  
Dewayne Taylor  
Jason Webb  
Jef Williams, Chair  
Joshua York

**2025 Officers:**

Jef Williams, Chair  
Rich Barnett, Vice Chair  
Debbie Giacomo, Secretary