

# 2012 RESOLUTIONS

**PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION**

Tuesday, November 13

Vaughn Forest Baptist Church

Montgomery, Alabama

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1 ON PRO-LIFE LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, The unborn child is a separate being, apart from the mother. As such, it is able to sense such feelings as joy and pain; and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states *Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord*; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Baptists have consistently supported strong legislation defending the right to life of the unborn and restrictions on wanton abortion; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama Pro-Life Coalition, Inc. (APLC), of which ALCAP and the Alabama Baptist Christian Life Commission are a part, plan to have introduced in the Alabama Legislature a bill on women's health and safety which would raise the standard of healthcare for women at abortion clinics, including, but not limited to, admitting privileges for physicians and in-person counseling for abortifacients; and

WHEREAS, APLC also plans to have introduced in the Alabama Legislature a healthcare conscience bill that would provide that an employer may not discriminate against a person who refuses to perform an abortion or engage in human embryo research or cloning; and

WHEREAS, Sex and race selection abortions are being performed in some parts of the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, November 13-14, 2012, support passage of the Women's Health and Safety Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we also support passage of a healthcare conscience bill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we stand firmly against sex and race selection abortions anywhere in the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express appreciation to Governor Robert Bentley for his unwavering support for the right to life of the unborn; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we urge Baptists and all Christians across the state to speak steadfastly in defense of those who cannot speak for themselves.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2  
ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

WHEREAS, Marriage is a covenant relationship and an institution established by God rather than simply a human social construct (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:22–33); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have consistently affirmed our support of the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive union of one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures indicate that all sexual behavior outside of marriage is sinful; and

WHEREAS, All people are created in the image of God and thus are due respect and love (Genesis 1:26–27); and

WHEREAS, The Department of Justice has argued (Perry v. Schwarzenegger) that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional claiming that DOMA unfairly discriminates against homosexuals; and

WHEREAS, For the first time in history a President of the United States has publicly voiced his personal support of “same-sex marriage”; and

WHEREAS, While homosexuality does not present the distinguishing features of classes entitled to special protections, like the classes of race and gender, we acknowledge the unique struggles experienced by homosexuals in some parts of society; and

WHEREAS, It is regrettable that homosexual rights activists and those who are promoting the recognition of “same-sex marriage” have misappropriated the rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, meeting in Montgomery,

Alabama, November 13-14, 2012, oppose any attempt to frame “same-sex marriage” as a civil rights issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we deny that the effort to legalize “same-sex marriage” qualifies as a civil rights issue since homosexuality does not qualify as a class meriting special protections, like race and gender; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage Southern Baptists everywhere to fight for the civil rights of all people where such rights are consistent with the righteousness of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our love to those who struggle with same-sex attraction and who are engaged in the homosexual lifestyle; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we stand against any form of gay-bashing, whether disrespectful attitudes, hateful rhetoric, or hate-incited actions toward persons who engage in acts of homosexuality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm that pastors should preach the truth of God’s word on human sexuality, marriage, purity, and love with all boldness and without fear of reprisal; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage our fellow Southern Baptists to consider how they and their churches might engage in compassionate, redemptive ministry to those who struggle with homosexuality; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we proclaim that Christ offers forgiveness of sin for those who turn from their sins and believe on Christ for the forgiveness of sin.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3**  
**ON AFFIRMING HUMAN NEEDS MINISTRY AND**  
**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BY LOCAL CHURCHES**

WHEREAS, Humanity's greatest problem at the root of all other problems is rebellion against God and separation from Him because of sin; and

WHEREAS, The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only solution to our problem, as it, through faith in Jesus Christ, reconciles us to God and to one another; and

WHEREAS, The work and ministry of Jesus involved both proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and demonstrating the love of God; and

WHEREAS, We are commanded by Scripture both to preach the Gospel and to do good deeds so that God's light would shine before men; and

WHEREAS, The indwelling Spirit leads us sacrificially to love our neighbor and all those in need as we love ourselves with both material and spiritual assistance; and

WHEREAS, We are ambassadors for Christ with the ministry of reconciliation to all who are alienated from God and are living under the effects of personal, social, and structural sin; and

WHEREAS, We live in a country and world where sin and its effects greatly harm individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Baptists have a long history of providing aid to all people in times of need, including disaster relief, physical assistance,

and advocacy for the oppressed, among other things; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, November 13-14, 2012, commend the work of our local churches, associations, community ministry centers, state conventions, and missions agencies in their ministries to human needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as every local church makes disciples for Christ, it should encourage every disciple to love people; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage every local church to engage the needs of its community, supremely with a strong Gospel witness in words, accompanied by a corresponding witness of deeds; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage generous support of those ministries in Baptist life that are specifically equipped to facilitate the work of human needs ministry and the involvement of local churches in the same; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we encourage education, training, and equipping of Christians in human needs ministry as an expression of love, discipleship, and fidelity to our Lord as God gifts, directs, and enables us to be His hands and feet to a hurting and needy world.

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