RESOLUTION ON MINISTER APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, ministers serve tirelessly to fulfill the responsibilities of their calling; and

WHEREAS, ministers who give encouragement and assistance to others need affirmation of their efforts; and

WHEREAS, other Christian organizations have designated the month of October as “Minister Appreciation Month;”

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Alabama Baptist State Convention recognize this designation and encourage local congregations to express their appreciation for and affirmation of their ministers during October of each year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request the Alabama State Board of Missions designate and promote October as “Minister Appreciation Month,” placing it in the Church Planning Guide; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we request The Alabama Baptist to publicize this designation each September as a reminder to the churches.

-Adopted by the Alabama Baptist Convention, November 1998.
Suggestions For Observing Minister Appreciation Day

Choose a team or committee to plan and direct Minister Appreciation Day.
- The committee could make recommendations to the church regarding Minister Appreciation Day and plan in detail the features of this observance.

Plan for recognition of the pastor and/or staff.
- Feature each minister and family in the church newsletter. Tell when the minister arrived at the church. Mention contributions made to the fellowship by the minister. A brief personal history and a photograph can be included.

- Recognition of each minister may be included in the Sunday bulletin.
- Have a time of recognition in the morning worship service. Consider the following:
  - A word from a civic official such as the mayor.
  - A “This is Your Life Presentation” with important people from the minister’s past.
  - A “bloopers video: or a verbal bloopers remembrance.
  - A highlights video or verbal highlights remembrance.
  - A plaque or a framed certificate of appreciation.
  - A portrait to hang in the foyer.

- Schedule a reception for the minister(s) and/or devote the Sunday evening service to a special emphasis on the ministry.

Consider appropriate expressions of appreciation.
- You may wish to include a gift to each minister as a part of the special recognition. Such gifts need not be expensive and may vary from flowers for the spouse and a coveted book for the minister, to a gift certificate for dinner at a nice restaurant, to a weekend at a nearby city, to a love offering. Your church will decide what is an appropriate expression.

One of the most cherished gifts a minister can receive is a book of letters from individual members. This will convey personal expressions of love and gratitude for the minister.

Set the date.

SOME POSSIBILITIES
- Honor pastor and staff during Minister Appreciation Month on a Sunday in October.
- Honor pastor and staff members on the anniversary date of the beginning of their ministry at your church.
- Honor pastor and staff on any date you choose.