

2010 RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
Tuesday, November 16 Hunter Street Baptist Church Hoover, Alabama

<p style="text-align: center;">RESOLUTION NO. 1 ON UNITY THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM</p>
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WHEREAS, The Cooperative Program has been the lifeline of Southern Baptists since 1925; and

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Program has united the associations, the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention through the desire to advance missions and to share the gospel around the world; and

WHEREAS, The gifts given through the Cooperative Program have fulfilled many of the ministries of the associations, the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, In Alabama, the churches, associations and state convention have promoted missions through the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Program provides a way of sharing missions and ministries because the churches send monies to the state convention and the state convention shares the funds with the associations and the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Because of the Cooperative Program, associational missionaries, state missionaries, North American missionaries and international missionaries feel a sense of partnership in attempting to reach the world for Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Cooperative Program has provided the primary and preferred means for carrying out the Great Commission which says "*Go therefore and*

make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (NKJV); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, praise God for the progress that the churches of the state conventions have made during the past year in giving through the Cooperative Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pledge our efforts to work with the churches, associations, and the Southern Baptist Convention in promoting Cooperative Program giving; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for better economic times in our country so that more money becomes available for the work of the Kingdom of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we give thanks for the generous giving of our churches through the Cooperative Program during adverse financial times; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we appeal to Southern Baptist Convention leaders, state convention leaders, associational leaders, as well as local church leaders to renew their commitment to Great Commission Ministries by giving through the Cooperative Program.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2
ON ALABAMA GAMBLING**

WHEREAS, The Alabama Baptist State Convention has historically adopted resolutions against gambling in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, The Alabama Baptist State Convention opposes gambling based on the explicit teaching of Scripture (such as, Proverbs 10:4, Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 21:5-6, Isaiah 65:11-12); and

WHEREAS, Alabama Baptists love their neighbors and desire that they avoid the destructive effects of predatory gambling on their lives and families; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 65 of the 1901 Constitution of Alabama prohibits games of chance, but 18 constitutional amendments have been passed permitting games of chance in the form of "traditional" bingo played on paper cards for limited charitable purposes; and

WHEREAS, In the 18 counties which permit such bingo, some nonprofit organizations play traditional bingo only for charitable purposes, but there are many other organizations which abuse this permission by engaging in significant profitable and predatory casino gambling through the use of electronic machines; and

WHEREAS, Such electronic machines have been determined by the Alabama Supreme Court to be "slot machines," prohibited by the criminal statutes of the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, The Attorney General's Office and many district attorneys' offices have failed to prosecute these violations of law and as a result Governor Bob Riley appointed a Task Force on Illegal Gambling for the purpose of prosecuting these crimes; and

WHEREAS, The efforts of the Task Force have resulted in many favorable Alabama Supreme Court opinions, though no final conclusive opinion has been given by the Supreme Court which would result in closing the unlawful casino style operations; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), and other organizations successfully opposed legislation introduced during the 2010 regular session of the Alabama Legislature seeking to "let the people vote" on constitutional amendments which would have legalized and monopolized expanded gambling in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Eleven individuals have been arrested, including four senators, two casino owners, four lobbyists

and one state employee, for alleged illegal conduct related to the selling and purchasing of votes for the expansion of gambling in the Alabama Senate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, reaffirm that we oppose all types of gambling in the State of Alabama, specifically including electronic bingo, slot machine and other forms of gambling, by whatever name they may be known; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Attorney General's Office under the Attorney General-elect to continue the efforts of the Governor's Task Force on Gambling, to prosecute those who violate the criminal laws of the State of Alabama and violate its constitutional prohibitions against games of chance; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Attorney General-elect to pursue such appeals to the Alabama Supreme Court as are appropriate for the purpose of obtaining from the state's highest court a final and conclusive opinion on the legality of the gambling that now exists in the State of Alabama through the operation of the so-called electronic bingo machines; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor-elect to support the Attorney General-elect's efforts to prosecute unlawful gambling; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank Governor Bob Riley for his efforts and his courageous stand against gambling; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we applaud the concerted efforts over the last year that demonstrated the resolve and commitment of the citizens of Alabama to end all forms of unlawful gambling in the State of Alabama; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge Alabama Baptist pastors to inform and educate their congregations on the evils of gambling and urge them to support all of those in positions of authority who are opposing this gambling; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the newly elected Governor, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the House and Senate of the Alabama Legislature, and to all major news media in the State of Alabama.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3
ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY**

WHEREAS, The United States Military is the most exemplary and feared military fighting force the world has ever known; and

WHEREAS, The United States Military has served the United States of America and the free world by committing its members without regard to their personal wellbeing to protect the sovereignty of the United States and the freedom and liberty that it presents to the world; and

WHEREAS, The United States Military has developed its spirit, morality and unity through centuries of commitment to the highest principles and beliefs; and

WHEREAS, At the core of being a member of the United States Military are the principles and concepts that have made America a great nation; and

WHEREAS, These principles and concepts are those shared with Alabama Baptists and include integrity, honesty, self-sacrifice, and the morality that recognizes good from evil; and

WHEREAS, Alabama Baptists recognize homosexuality as an abomination to God and is contrary to Scripture and traditional Judeo-Christian moral standards (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:18-32; I Corinthians 6:9-10); and

WHEREAS, The history of the United States Military has held homosexuality to be detrimental to its morality, cohesion, order, discipline, and mission; and

WHEREAS, Under President Bill Clinton, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was permitted for the United States military allowing homosexuals to serve if their homosexuality was not known and would not allow homosexuals to openly serve; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama openly supports the legalization of homosexual rights in all facets of American culture, including in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, The Obama Administration has acted in concert with homosexual interests in the United States and has directed the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to support laws that will permit homosexuals to serve openly in the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have submitted to the will of the White House and have worked through the United States Congress to pass such laws as may be required to legalize open and blatant homosexuality to be practiced in all services of the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, It is the seasoned judgment of many military experts that homosexuality is inconsistent with the mission of the United States Military; and

WHEREAS, Chaplains serving in the United States Military who believe that homosexuality is a sin shall be required to recognize rights of homosexuals and this will severely compromise their ability to minister to service men and women; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the United States Military as a fighting force to protect the free world will be crippled by homosexual behavior and consequential deterioration of morality, cohesion and effectiveness of each military unit; and

WHEREAS, Some congressional leaders attached an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill that would repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, thereby permitting homosexuals to serve openly, but which was blocked in a vote by the United States Senate, including Alabama Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions; and

WHEREAS, There may be further attempts to permit homosexuals to openly serve in the United States military; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, oppose the normalization of homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, We applaud those members of the United States Senate, specifically including Senator Richard Shelby and Senator Jeff Sessions, for opposing the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose any statute, regulation, rule, law or policy of any description which recognizes homosexuality as permitted behavior in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we continue to recognize homosexuality as an abomination to God and as a violation of Holy Scripture; and be it further

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RESOLUTION NO. 3
ON HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY (continued)

RESOLVED, We call upon President Barack Obama to abandon his efforts to normalize homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other military leaders who are in positions of authority to oppose the normalization of homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon the Alabama Congressional Delegation to the United States Congress to oppose normalization of homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon Alabama Baptists to inform and educate their congregations on the issues concerning homosexuals in the United States Military and urge them to commit these matters to action and prayer to oppose the normalization of homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon Alabama Baptists to commit to prayer and fasting, asking God to protect

Christian chaplains who will face dilemmas as a result of attempts to normalize homosexuality in the United States Military, particularly if any law is passed that would compromise their ability to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life-changing lessons of the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon Alabama Baptists to pray for United States Military men and women to protect them from all harm perpetrated on them by the efforts of politicians subjecting them to sensitivity training for the acceptance of homosexuality, the potential advances of homosexuals toward them, and the problems that will be encountered in the rank and file and in the chain of command as a result of policies recognizing homosexuality in the United States Military; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chiefs of the branches of the military services, and the United States Senators and United States Congressmen of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, and to all major news media in the State of Alabama.

RESOLUTION NO. 4
ON PHYSICAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control found that 31% of the residents in Alabama are obese, which ranks sixth in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Guidestone Financial Resources reports that 73% of Southern Baptist pastors who participated in health screenings at the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting were obese; and

WHEREAS, Guidestone Financial Resources estimates that an obese person spends \$179,000 more in health care than a person who is not; and

WHEREAS, Obesity is now recognized as a major risk factor for coronary heart disease, which can lead to a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, Gluttony, which the Bible likens to drunkenness, is a major contributor to obesity (Proverbs 23:20-21); and

WHEREAS, Gluttony is the opposite of self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit; and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and that we are to be good stewards of our lives and treasures; and

WHEREAS, Our failure to be good stewards of our physical health is a poor witness to our surrounding culture; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, repent of our lack of self-control, over-indulgence in eating, and failure to be good stewards of our bodily health; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all Alabama Baptists to model physical health and moderation in eating, giving thanks to God for the gift of food without abusing it; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we call upon pastors to teach their congregations about the biblical standards regarding self-control in eating and bodily stewardship.

2010 RESOLUTIONS

PRESENTED TO THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION
Wednesday, November 17 Hunter Street Baptist Church Hoover, Alabama

RESOLUTION NO. 5 ON THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

WHEREAS, The statutes of the United States prohibit discrimination against certain classes of individuals by employers and others; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to congressional findings based on historical and anecdotal evidence, statutes have been passed which prohibit discrimination against persons because of immutable characteristics, such as gender, race and national origin, and for fundamental rights, such as religion; and

WHEREAS, Congress has limited those statutes to certain larger employers, places of higher learning, public education, public accommodation, and in other places; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of these non-discrimination statutes is to protect individuals from improper prejudices and to thereby stop discrimination; and

WHEREAS, These laws have been legitimately based on principles from the Holy Scriptures to love thy neighbor as thyself and for the love of Jesus Christ to all men; and

WHEREAS, The Judeo-Christian heritage of the United States and its laws have also been based on the recognition of sin and sinful activities and not rewarding them by protective laws; and

WHEREAS, America faces a continuing and increasing assault on its values which attempts to legalize and recognize sinful activities as acceptable activities, including homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, Legislation entitled the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) has been introduced in the House of Representatives (HR3017) and in the Senate (S1584), which would add to existing American anti-discrimination laws protection for activities related to sexual orientation, specifically homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, While immutable characteristics and fundamental rights are to be recognized and appreciated by law, deviant aberrant behavior historically unlawful should not be raised

to the same level as those other legitimate laws; and

WHEREAS, ENDA would have the effect of requiring businesses and organizations with 15 or more employees to respect the homosexual and deviant activities of homosexuals, transgenders, and others engaged in deviant lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, There is the danger that no religious exemption would ultimately protect pastors and ministers and their religious and free speech rights on the sin of homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, ENDA would codify for America a deviant and sinful lifestyle; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, oppose ENDA and its efforts to place into American law homosexuality, sexual orientation, transgender and other deviant sexual practices as protected; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose any efforts in American culture by the force of law any statute, rule, regulation or other law that would normalize sinful behavior, such as homosexuality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon Alabama Baptist pastors to inform and educate their congregations on ENDA and to seek through them concerted prayer for God to defeat this attempt at perverting America; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon Alabama Baptists to communicate with Alabama's U.S. Representatives to oppose HR 3017 and to communicate with Alabama's U.S. Senators to oppose S1584, and any other legislative attempts to normalize homosexuality in the United States; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, the United States Senators and United States Congressmen of the Alabama Delegation, and to all major news media in the State of Alabama.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6
ON THE TRAGEDY IN THE GULF**

WHEREAS, A terrible tragedy occurred on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico when eleven men were killed as a result of an explosion on the British Petroleum (BP) Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig; and

WHEREAS, The accident resulted in a major oil spill that put approximately 60,000 barrels of oil per day into the gulf; and

WHEREAS, The economy has suffered drastically from the devastation of the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, The environment has been tragically affected by the oil washing up on the beaches and seeping into the wetlands; and

WHEREAS, The wildlife consisting of the birds, mammals, and animals have been killed and damaged; and

WHEREAS, The seafood and fishing industries have been severely damaged resulting in great financial loss; and

WHEREAS, The entire Gulf Region has suffered greatly as a result of the accident; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, express care and sympathy to all those affected by the Gulf tragedy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we offer our prayers to those who have suffered in any way from the tragedy of the oil spill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for a fitting and proper resolution to the financial loss of those in the gulf coast region; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pledge ourselves and those of the Christian faith to try and replenish this great region and all its natural resources; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we ask God's special blessing on this area that it may again gain the likeness that it once had as a beautiful, bountiful, blessed place for the residents of this area and the visitors from around the world.

RESOLUTION NO. 7
IN SUPPORT OF SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report, The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke, concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke (also known as environment tobacco smoke); and 100% smoke-free state-wide laws, city ordinances and/or policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure for the public's health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke is a leading cause of preventable death in the United States, causing 59,400 lung cancer and heart disease deaths annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Surgeon General of the United States stated that "The scientific evidence is now indisputable: Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance—it is a serious health hazard;" and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization, the Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency have all classified secondhand smoke as a known human lung carcinogen and therefore conclude unanimously that secondhand smoke is a health risk to smokers and nonsmokers; and

WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution, and that breathing second hand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including, but not limited to, heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand smoke is particularly hazardous to vulnerable populations such as elderly people, individuals with cardiovascular disease, infants and children; and individuals with impaired respiratory function, including asthmatics and those with obstructive airway disease; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that infants and children are especially vulnerable to secondhand smoke, suffering

more respiratory problems, ear infections, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke, and pregnant women exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk to have low birth weight babies; and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches in Matthew 25:34-46 that followers of Christ have an obligation to care for "the least of these," and especially for "the fatherless and widows" (James 1:27); and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches in 1 Corinthians 6:19 that the body of a believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit and therefore should be cared for and protected as it is used for God's glory; and

WHEREAS, Studies conducted in cities that enacted 100% smoke free ordinances in their municipalities experienced significant decreases in hospital admission for heart attacks and improvement in workers' lung functions; and

WHEREAS, Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke free policies and laws do not have an adverse economic impact on businesses and the hospitality industry, but instead have a positive effect on businesses; and

WHEREAS, Smoke-free air policies have been shown to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke, and help smokers reduce the number of cigarettes consumed or quit entirely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, strongly encourage state lawmakers and/or local municipalities to adopt a 100% smoke-free law/ordinance that includes workplaces, restaurants and all public buildings in order to promote the safety and health of its citizens.

RESOLUTION NO. 8
ON DR. DAVID POTTS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS PRESIDENT OF JUDSON COLLEGE

WHEREAS, Dr. David E. Potts began service as Executive Vice-President for Administration at Judson College in 1987 and was named President on July 1, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Under his tenure the college has continued to grow in academic offerings, including the most recent equine studies degree program and social work major, and the associates degree in nursing program beginning in the fall of next year; and

WHEREAS, The college has seen many improvements in its physical plant including the dedication of the Charlotte G. Lowder Science Building in 2001 and the James I. Harrison Center for Academic Excellence in Jewett Hall in 2003; and

WHEREAS, The college's endowment has grown substantially under his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Judson students have heeded Potts' admonition to "nurture your community" by engaging in many ministries in Perry County and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The ties between Judson College and the Alabama Baptist State Convention have grown stronger during his presidency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, express our appreciation to David E. Potts for his exemplary leadership as president of Judson College, and our best wishes in the days ahead as he leads the college in offering, according to its motto, "knowledge and faith for a purposeful life."

RESOLUTION NO. 9
ON APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, The messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention have been blessed by the music, messages and mission reports; and

WHEREAS, We have sought to make this Convention one of prayer, inspiration and progress; and

WHEREAS, We thank God for the leadership of our president, Dr. Jimmy Jackson, vice presidents, Dr. Mike Shaw and Dr. John Killian, along with other officers of the Convention; and

WHEREAS, We appreciate the Birmingham Baptist Association, the area churches, and ministers of those churches having played a significant role in making this Convention a success; and

WHEREAS, We especially thank the Hunter Street Baptist Church and their pastor Dr. James (Buddy) Gray for the use of their facilities, services of every kind, and their support and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, We express gratitude for the various committees, Convention speakers, musicians, and other platform personalities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, express our profound gratitude to God and to those whom He used to bring about Convention sessions characterized by His leadership.

RESOLUTION NO. 10
ON AFFIRMATION OF THE STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS AND ENTITIES STAFF

WHEREAS, For more than a decade Alabama Baptists have been blessed by the leadership of Dr. Rick Lance, whose visionary leadership has provided a roadmap for ministry through *One Mission, the Great Commission; One Program, the Cooperative Program; and Many Ministries, Great Commission Ministries*; and

WHEREAS, We have also been beneficiaries of the ministries of our state missionaries, ministry assistants and all other employees of the State Board of Missions, who have proven by their tireless efforts and creative ministries that they are committed to the calling of Jesus Christ upon their lives and ministries, and have enriched our churches in many ways such as missions, education, evangelism and church support; and

WHEREAS, The members of the State Board of Missions staff have proven to be trustworthy stewards of the resources given through the Cooperative Program by Alabama Baptist churches; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention meeting in Hoover, Alabama, November 16-17, 2010, affirm and encourage the service of Dr. Lance, our state missionaries, ministry assistants and employees, and those who serve Alabama Baptist entities, and express appreciation for their sacrificial service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to supporting the work of the State Board of Missions and the ministries and priorities reflected through the 2011 budget; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to encouraging our churches to be faithful in supporting the work of Alabama Baptists, Southern Baptists, and the cause of missions worldwide by sacrificial giving through the Cooperative Program.