

**Proposed Resolutions 2020**  
**State Convention of Baptists in Ohio**  
**November 16, 2020**  
**Meeting at Dublin Baptist Church, Dublin Ohio**

**1. In Appreciation of Officers, State Staff, and Host Church**

WHEREAS, Our convention president, Ryan Strother, has faithfully and sacrificially served for the past two years and has led the convention to pray for God's guidance, to plan for future strategy in reaching Ohio with the Gospel, and to celebrate what has been done; and

WHEREAS, Our first vice-president Reginald Hayes, second vice-president Jeff Woolum, and historian Jack Kwok have also served Ohio Baptists through a challenging year and in preparation for this gathering; and

WHEREAS, Recording Secretary Faye Rodgers has faithfully served this convention since 1999 and Assistant Recording Secretary Annette Dessecker has served her office since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Jack Kwok and the staff of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio have led us during the changes and challenges of the past year and have made key preparations for this annual celebration; and

WHEREAS, The pastor, staff, and members of Dublin Baptist Church have graciously prepared to host this Annual Celebration; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio express our gratitude and appreciation for the service and leadership of these to prepare for this annual meeting characterized by celebration, prayer, and worship.

**2. In Appreciation of Jack Kwok, Ph.D.**

WHEREAS, Jack Kwok, Ph.D., has faithfully served as Executive Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio since November 1996 and has announced his retirement effective the end of this month; and

WHEREAS, He has kept in the forefront a strategy of prayer and spiritual renewal; more and better disciples; more healthy congregations; discovering, developing, and deploying leaders; and working from associational mission plans to help move Mission Ohio forward; and

WHEREAS, 607 new churches have been planted during his tenure; and

WHEREAS We experienced a net gain of more than 200 churches the past 24 years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio express our sincere gratitude for his twenty-four years of faithful ministry and leadership to Mission Ohio.

**3. On Critical Race Theory and the Sufficiency of Scripture**

WHEREAS, *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* states, “[A]ll Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried” (Article I); and

WHEREAS, Humanity is identified in Scripture as image bearers of God, which establishes all individuals with value that transcends gender [male and female by birth], race, and ethnicity (Genesis 1:26); and

WHEREAS, The New Covenant further unites image bearers from every nation, tribe, tongue, and people, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, in whom we find our true identity; and

WHEREAS, Scripture alone contains the principles and commands that are sufficient to confront and correct the racially motivated sins of hatred, bigotry, prejudice, injustice, and abuse; and

WHEREAS, Christian unity is not created by the anti-biblical ideologies of intersectionality or Critical Race Theory, but instead is generated by our common salvation in Christ Jesus; and

WHEREAS, The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio is committed to the sufficiency of Scripture and is committed to seeking biblical literacy through biblical teaching; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio affirm Scripture as the first, last, and sufficient authority regarding how our churches seek to address social ills and sinful actions, and that we reject Critical Race Theory and any other philosophy or practice which contradicts Scripture; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the gospel of Jesus Christ alone grants the power to change people's hearts and to transform practices in society, because "he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6, ESV); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the churches of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio surrender our hearts to the authority of Scripture alone, and commit ourselves to teaching our members the biblical truth regarding the nature of man, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as the remedy for all bigotry, hatred, prejudice, and unjust actions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to eradicating any practices of ethnic and racial bigotry and prejudice from Southern Baptist life and ministry, while pursuing racial and ethnic reconciliation in all our relationships as stated by the June 1, 1995 Southern Baptist Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio exhibits the promise that distinctions created by God and gifted by God give Him absolute glory in our churches.

#### **4. In Recognition of the Disaster Relief Ministry of Nick Freeman**

WHEREAS, Nick Freeman has faithfully served as a Disaster Relief volunteer for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, Nick accepted the challenge "Do your best" in 2001 from a letter from a first grader in Silex, Missouri, sent to disaster volunteers at Ground Zero following 9/11; and

WHEREAS, Nick Freeman has responded to more than 50 events including floods, hurricanes, training, blood drives, and conferences; and

WHEREAS, He has served in the areas of child care, chainsaw, assessments, training events, incident command, food service, flood recovery, and most recently in chaplaincy as coordinator of the 34 Ohio Disaster Relief chaplains; and

WHEREAS Nick and his wife Judy, also a Disaster Relief volunteer, leave their home in Hamilton to serve with Disaster Relief as much as possible; be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers of the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio meeting at Dublin Baptist Church express our gratitude to Nick Freeman for his service and leadership in Disaster Relief of Ohio Baptists.

Respectfully submitted by the Resolutions Committee

Tim Cline, Chair  
Jason McDonald  
Reginald Hayes  
Jonathan Newman