

SBTC ANNUAL MEETING

Resolutions

2022 REPORT



Resolution 1

On Appreciation for President Todd Kaunitz

WHEREAS, President Todd Kaunitz has served the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as president since November 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has led the convention with grace, humility, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, President Kaunitz has called the convention's attention to prayer and evangelism with the hope of seeing revival within our churches; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Adrian Kaunitz has consistently supported her husband and has been an integral part of his service to the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; and

WHEREAS, New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, has been gracious and patient in sharing President Kaunitz with this convention so that he may accomplish his duties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 14–15, 2022, express our appreciation to President Todd Kaunitz for his service and leadership; Mrs. Kaunitz for her support; and New Beginnings Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, for their generosity in sharing President Kaunitz with our convention.

Resolution 2

On Appreciation for Corpus Christi

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2022 session of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have enjoyed a time of worship, encouragement, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge God's providence for all of these blessings; and

WHEREAS, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, in Corpus Christi, Texas, express grateful appreciation to the citizens of the city of Corpus Christi for the hospitality extended to the messengers of the convention; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the kind hospitality, extensive labor, and generosity of the staff and leadership of The American Bank Center of Corpus Christi to host this convention; and

WHEREAS, we gratefully acknowledge that area churches have also extended hospitality and provided volunteer assistance; and

WHEREAS, we also acknowledge the Lord's work in enabling all our officers, various committees, convention speakers, musicians, convention staff, and messengers to conduct the affairs of this convention with dignity and a Christ-like spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 14–15, in Corpus Christi, Texas, hereby express our profound gratitude to the Lord and to all those he used to bring about a meeting characterized by Spirit-dependent prayer, evangelistic zeal, inspiring worship, and encouragement for kingdom work.

Resolution 3 On Gambling

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has long opposed gambling in its various forms based on the violation of biblical principles, its immoral fruit, and the harm it brings to families and communities; and

WHEREAS, gambling violates biblical stewardship and burdens those already in financial difficulty, tempting individuals to trust in chance rather than in the Lord who provides for all human needs (Matthew 6:19–34; 1 Timothy 6:17–18); and

WHEREAS, gambling violates neighbor–love by causing governments to prey on their own citizens, necessitating the financial loss and harm of many for the gain of a few, and enjoying entertainment at the expense of others (Exodus 20:17; Leviticus 25:17; Proverbs 8:15–16; Matthew 7:12; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:3–4, 8); and

WHEREAS, government–sponsored gambling has had a devastating impact on citizens, families, and communities often resulting in serious consequences such as increased crime, domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, depression, divorce, debt, bankruptcy, and job loss; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 81% of Texas households are engaged in gambling of some kind and 75% of Texans agree that an addiction to gambling is a lot like addiction to drugs or alcohol;¹ and

WHEREAS, gambling technology magnifies the addictive tendencies associated with gambling; and

WHEREAS, gambling interests and organizations are working to expand legalized gambling in Texas through spending substantial amounts of money to lobby and change state laws, market the legalization and expansion of gambling under the guise of economic development, and entice many Texans into destructive gambling behaviors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting November 14–15, 2022, in Corpus Christi, Texas, declare our opposition to any further legalization, government facilitation, or expansion of any type of gambling including land-based casinos, riverboat casinos, sports betting, daily fantasy sports, instant racing, electronic versions of raffles, bingo, lottery scratch tickets, Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), expanded lotteries and Keno; phone and computer-based wagering; and the expanded use of gambling technologies in Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we implore our Texas legislature, attorney general, and governor’s office to end any state-sponsored gambling; to address, through policy and legislation, its destructive and harmful effects; to reject any state budget that relies on monies from gambling to fund state responsibilities; and to prohibit state agencies and commissions from allowing the expanded use of gambling technologies; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we strongly urge Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches to increase their continued efforts to educate their members on biblical stewardship, to raise awareness concerning the deception and dangers of gambling, and to minister to those caught in gambling addictions.

¹ <https://www.ncpgsurvey.org/texas/>.

Resolution 4 On Biblical Gender & Sexuality

WHEREAS, a biblical understanding of gender and sexuality begins with the Triune God as the Creator of all objective reality (Genesis 1–2) and reflects his holy, sovereign, just, and creative will rather than a self-creating or self-constituting experience of human beings; and

WHEREAS, human beings are God’s creatures outfitted with a gender and sexuality according to God’s will for humanity, which is for the purpose of God’s glory and human flourishing (1 Corinthians 6:13), and thus are subject to God’s authority and intention for creation; and

WHEREAS, human beings are uniquely created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–28), which includes but is not reduced to a gendered existence and sexual design that reflect both an equal dignity and noble calling for establishing God’s glory in the world; and

WHEREAS, human beings are distinctively created as male and female (Genesis 1:26–28), reflecting an embodied existence with substantive differentiation including at the objective, scientific level of genetics, anatomy, physiology, psychology, and reproduction; and

WHEREAS, the male and female human beings are created for one another in a complementary relationship located in the context of a marriage covenant to be enjoyed sexually and used procreatively toward God’s intended purpose of filling the earth, subduing it, and having dominion (Genesis 1:26–28, 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:16, 11:11–12; Ephesians 5:21–33); and

WHEREAS, because of the Fall, human beings now bear a sinful nature (Genesis 3) that, with regard to gender and sexuality, manifests itself in unique sinful dispositions and sinful sexual desires and results in an increasing number and ever-changing variety of identities and orientations; and

WHEREAS, God is compassionate to those who are broken by sin and deceived, abused, and mistreated by society (John 4, 11), having dealt with sins on the cross of Jesus Christ, reconciling, in his own body of flesh, those who come to him in repentance from sin and faith in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 14–15, 2022, affirm anew the biblical and beautiful truth that God created humanity in his image, as embodied men and women, for his purpose and glory; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention exhort our members and leaders to not accept any type of false doctrine or deceptive application related to gender identity and sexuality rather than what is stated clearly in Genesis 1:27 (“God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them”), affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Article IV, “The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God’s creation,” and demonstrate this truth by teaching our children to honor God with their bodies; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, implore our churches to continue to be a people who are faithful, hopeful, and loving toward all people, helping those who are accepting of or acting upon unbiblical concepts of gender and sexuality move toward repentance and reconciliation through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Resolution 5 On Celebration of the Overturning of Roe v. Wade

WHEREAS, the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention have fervently prayed for the overturning of Roe v. Wade and ultimately the abolishing of abortion and have continued to increase their efforts to serve and support local pregnancy resource centers, pro-life organizations, churches, foster-care and adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has historically recognized the sanctity of life in the womb and repeatedly reaffirmed our pro-life ethic, our opposition to the heinous act of abortion, and our support of women and children in more than 19 resolutions² over the course of 24 years; and

WHEREAS, human life begins at conception and all humans bear the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 139:13, 16), as is affirmed in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Article XV, “We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death;” and

WHEREAS, abortion is the intentional harm or destruction of human life and is a sinful rejection of God’s Law (Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:19); and

WHEREAS, our churches acknowledge their responsibility to speak continually into the topic of abortion; and

WHEREAS, churches should be places that seek to demonstrate the love of Christ through both prenatal and postnatal care; and

WHEREAS, both increased legislation and enforcement of existing legislation are needed at the state and national levels to abolish fully the evils of abortion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, we, the messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 14–15, 2022, affirm and celebrate the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 24, 2022 historic decision in Dobbs v. Jackson resulting in the overturning of Roe v. Wade; and be it further

RESOLVED, we will uphold the dignity and value of every human being, as image bearers of God, from the moment of conception to natural death, as clearly taught in Scripture and confessed in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 Article XVIII; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage all Southern Baptists of Texas Convention churches to take up the responsibility of both the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel by teaching the grace, forgiveness, and hope of Christ and by continuing steadfast in our commitment to pursue pure and undefiled religion prayerfully, financially, and practically in prenatal and postnatal care through pregnancy resource centers, counseling, fostering, adoption, and other available means; and be it finally

RESOLVED, we thank God for and celebrate every step taken toward the abolition of abortion and pray for and work to see abortion abolished completely.

² 1998 Resolution “On Sacredness of Human Life,” 1999 Resolution “On Sanctity of Human Life,” 2000 Resolution “On Sanctity of Human Life,” 2001 Resolution “On Stem Cell Research,” 2002 Resolution “On The Psalm 139 Project,” 2003 Resolution “The Sanctity of Human Life,” 2004 Resolution “Stem Cell Research & Partial-Birth Abortion,” 2005 Resolution “Sanctity of Human Life,” 2008 Resolution “Sanctity of Human Life,” 2010 Resolution “Stem Cell Research,” 2011 Resolution “Personhood of the Unborn,” 2012 Resolution “The Sanctity of Life,” 2013 Resolution “On Texas Legislature for Standing for Women,” 2014 Resolution “On Legislation Supporting Women’s and Children’s Health,” 2015 Resolution “On Dignity of Human Life,” 2016 Resolution “On Orphan Care in the Church,” 2017 Resolution “On Adoption Tax Credit,” 2020 Resolution “On Affirmation of Life,” 2021 Resolution “On The Texas Heartbeat Act.”