

Resolution No. 1

Appreciation

Whereas, this year's annual meeting has been guided prayerfully, fairly, and effectively by Dr. Larry D. White, Convention President, with the support and assistance of Dr. James D. "Sonny" Tucker, Executive Director, and the other dedicated staff and leaders of the Convention; and

Whereas, Pastor John McCallum and the staff and laity of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, have provided excellent service and arrangements for the annual meeting; and

Whereas, the one hundred and sixty-ninth session has been ably organized by the Program Committee; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 25-26, 2022, express our deep appreciation to our president, executive director, convention officers, the staff and members of First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, and the Program Committee for their diligent and sacrificial service in the successful preparation and guidance of the one hundred and sixty-ninth session of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Resolution No. 2

Dr. James D. "Sonny" Tucker

Whereas, Dr. James D. "Sonny" Tucker has led Arkansas Baptists and our state convention to be united and focused on reaching people in Arkansas with the gospel of Jesus Christ since January 2013; and

Whereas, the Dixie Jackson State Missions offering has grown from \$1.3 million to \$1.8 million; and

Whereas, the Southern Baptists of Arkansas have contributed over \$180 million to the Cooperative Program for the mission and ministry of Christ to the nations; and

Whereas, 259 churches were established for the advancement of the gospel in our state; and

Whereas, Dr. Tucker's administration led in the formation of the Delta Institute for the training and equipping of bi-vocational pastors and church planters in the Delta region of the Natural State; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 25-26, 2022, express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Tucker for his faithful service to this network of Baptist churches.

Resolution No. 3

On Opposing the Potential Harmful Effects of Legalizing Recreational Marijuana

Whereas, on the November 2022 Arkansas general election ballot, the state's electorate will cast votes on the Arkansas Adult Use Cannabis Amendment (Issue 4); and

Whereas, the passage of Issue 4 will legalize the cultivation, marketing, distribution, possession, and consumption of marijuana for recreational purposes, bringing potential undesirable and dangerous effects to the Natural State; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 25-26, 2022, implore Arkansas voters to cast their votes against Issue 4, the Arkansas Adult Use Cannabis Amendment.

Resolution No. 4

On Supporting the Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment

Whereas, on the November 2022 Arkansas general election ballot, the state's electorate will cast votes on the Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment (Issue 3); and

Whereas, if Issue 3 is approved by voters, it will guarantee that no Arkansas law, state statute or local ordinance, will infringe on religious freedoms except in rare and unusual circumstances in which the government must demonstrate that it has a legitimate, compelling interest to do so and that there is no less restrictive alternative available to satisfy that compelling governmental interest; and

Whereas, Arkansas currently has a statute that protects religious freedom, a constitutional amendment such as Issue 3 will strengthen those protections, since constitutional provisions take priority over legislative acts and, therefore, are not subject to being altered or repealed by future legislative or bureaucratic action; only the people in statewide votes can make such changes; and

Whereas, we recognize that the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right is essential to a free society and should be protected for all people in the U.S. under the federal and state constitutions; and

Whereas, the role of religion in society and public life in our state and nation has a long and robust tradition; and

Whereas, individuals who have studied the democracy of our nation have concluded that religion plays a central role in preserving our government and our way of life because religion provides the moral base required for democracy to succeed; and

Whereas, our laws respecting religious freedom should protect the right of individuals to freely express and act on the religious beliefs of those individuals and should protect individuals from coercion to profess or act on a religious belief to which those individuals do not hold; and

Whereas, for countless people in our state, faith is an integral part of every aspect of daily life and is not limited to the homes, houses of worship, or doctrinal creeds of those individuals; and

Whereas, religious faith has inspired many of our fellow Arkansans to help build a better state in which people of faith continue in their efforts to meet needs of the wanting, the suffering, and "the least of these;" therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to the Arkansas State Baptist Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 25-26, 2022, recognize the role that religion has played in the history of this country benefiting our state; and, be it further

Resolved, that there have been court decisions, legislative enactments, and bureaucratic actions that have attempted and, in some cases, succeeded in restricting religious freedoms of some

individuals, organizations, and institutions, resulting in an erosion of those rights; and, be it finally

Resolved, that we implore all Arkansans to support Issue 3, the Arkansas Religious Freedom Amendment, and, if able, cast their votes for its passage, sensing that it is the right thing to do and now is the time to do it.

Resolution No. 5

On Resolutions

Whereas, Southern Baptists have always valued unity and seek to build cooperation between the churches; and

Whereas, resolutions are not binding and cannot possibly speak to the beliefs of all Arkansas Baptists; and

Whereas, resolutions have been unnecessarily divisive and have failed to support harmony; therefore, be it

Resolved, that we the messengers to the Arkansas State Baptist Convention, meeting at First Baptist Church, Hot Springs, Arkansas, October 25-26, 2022, express a desire for consideration to be given to the efficacy of the practice of presenting and passing resolutions.