

SBC of Virginia Executive Board: Resolution on Biblical Authority, Complementarian Faithfulness, and the Truth and Unity Amendment

WHEREAS, the Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia was founded in 1996 by pastors and churches who were rightly convinced that meaningful Christian cooperation must be grounded in unwavering confidence in the inerrancy, authority, infallibility, and sufficiency of Scripture; and

WHEREAS, Article III of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia declares “the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, wholly without error as originally given by God, and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice;” and

WHEREAS, confidence in the inerrancy of Scripture necessarily entails submission to scriptural authority through obedience to its commands and implications, including and especially when its teachings conflict with the prevailing assumptions and demands of the culture; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that God created humanity in His image as male and female, equal in dignity and worth, complementary in His wise design, and entrusted with distinct responsibilities in the home and the church (Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Timothy 2:8–15); and

WHEREAS, *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* (as revised in 2023) affirms both that “men and women are gifted for service in the church” and that “the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture;” and

WHEREAS, history demonstrates that the abandonment of biblical authority concerning creation, sex, the family, and church leadership often prepares the way for further doctrinal compromise; and

WHEREAS, many in our present culture reject the goodness of God’s creation of humanity as male and female and seek to obscure the distinctions between men and women while redefining marriage and family and pressuring churches to conform to the spirit of the age; and

WHEREAS, churches who reject God’s instructions on the roles of men and women in the church have seated voting messengers at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention as recently as 2025; and

WHEREAS, a failure to address this reality leaves the Southern Baptist Convention open to egalitarian messengers eventually changing our governing documents to align with their errant theology; and

WHEREAS, our convention was founded by churches who were rightly convinced that submission to the authority of God's Word necessarily requires affirming, teaching, and practicing complementarianism; and

WHEREAS, churches which cooperate in the work of making disciples must have confidence their funds are spent in ways that are consistent with God's Word and invested in people and churches who share their commitment to the authority of God's Word and the wisdom of His good design for men and women; and

WHEREAS, messengers to the 2026 Southern Baptist Convention gave the required initial two-thirds approval to the Truth and Unity Amendment, which would clarify that a church in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention "does not act to affirm, appoint, or endorse a woman serving in the office or function of a pastor/elder/overseer, specifically preaching to the assembled congregation"; and

WHEREAS, the Truth and Unity Amendment must receive a second two-thirds affirmative vote at the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis before becoming part of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia Annual Homecoming, meeting in South Chesterfield, Virginia, November 8–10, 2026, reaffirm without reservation or hesitation our confidence in the complete inerrancy, authority, infallibility, and sufficiency of the Word of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we reaffirm our glad agreement with *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* (as revised in 2023), including its teaching that men and women possess equal dignity before God, are gifted for service in the church, and are created to fulfill complementary responsibilities according to God's wise design; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we reaffirm that the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to biblically qualified men and that the preaching of God's Word to the assembled congregation is a work God has reserved for biblically-qualified men; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage every SBC of Virginia cooperating church to continue to affirm, teach, and practice complementarianism, while cultivating abundant opportunities for women to exercise their spiritual gifts in every ministry and form of service that is consistent with Scripture; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm doctrinal clarity is not the enemy of Christian unity but one of its necessary foundations, for genuine unity is found not by avoiding the truth but by standing together under the authority of Christ and His Word; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the cooperating churches of the SBC of Virginia to elect and send their full complement of messengers to the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, and to encourage those messengers to vote in favor of its final adoption; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the SBC of Virginia recommends communication of this resolution to SBCV cooperating churches, the president and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the appropriate officers of the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention as an expression of our continued commitment to advance the gospel together in truth, faithfulness, and unity.