



RESOLUTIONS OF THE SBC OF VIRGINIA 2017 ANNUAL HOMECOMING  
THE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, COLONIAL HEIGHTS

## **Resolution 1**

APPRECIATION TO THE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, COLONIAL HEIGHTS,  
VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, The 2017 Annual Homecoming of the SBC of Virginia has been a time of edification, encouragement, and equipping; and

WHEREAS, We recognize an event of this magnitude requires diligent preparation and planning; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the warm and gracious hospitality of Pastor Randall Hahn and the people of The Heights Baptist Church; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the SBC of Virginia meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12-14, 2017, express heartfelt gratitude to the Lord and to all those He has used to bring about an Annual Homecoming characterized by a wonderful spirit of unity and cooperation focused on the Great Commission.

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## **Resolution 2**

PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER ELECTED LEADERS

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that God is sovereign over all nations of the earth (Psalm 93:1-2; 103:19; 113:4-5); and

WHEREAS, God, in His permissive will, may allow political leaders, both in biblical times and the present day, to enact policies that are opposed to His revealed will (1 Kings 16:25, 30); and

WHEREAS, It is in God's power to prompt the hearts and minds of political authorities to His purposes and furnish wisdom and guidance in their decisions (Ezra 1:1-3; Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 3:26-30; 4:34-37); and

WHEREAS, Government is appointed by God as His servant to encourage good and restrain evil to the end that all people are blessed and His people are enabled to live quiet and peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 1 Peter 2:14); and

WHEREAS, God commands His people to respect the authority of political leaders and honor them (1 Peter 2:13-17); and

WHEREAS, God commands His people to pray for their political leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-3); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12-14, 2017, urge the churches of the SBC of Virginia to pray confidently, regularly, and fervently for our President, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, and all local, state, and national governmental leaders.

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## **Resolution 3**

### **APPRECIATION FOR THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

WHEREAS, in appreciation of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15), we acknowledge the value of the sacrificial service of our Armed Service veterans (John 15:13), and

WHEREAS, through God's sovereign grace, their service has secured and defended the religious freedoms we enjoy, and

WHEREAS, there are many currently serving in harm's way; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12-14, 2017, express our genuine gratitude to all veterans of the United States Armed Services for their commitment and sacrifice in the defense of our Constitution; be it further

RESOLVED, that we pray for those who suffered in the line of duty and the families that bear the scars of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice; and be it finally

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RESOLVED, that we pray for the safety of those who remain in active service both at home and abroad and their families.

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## Resolution 4

### THE 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SBC OF VIRGINIA DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS, The Bible declares the church Christ's instrument to effect His will on earth (Ephesians 3:10) and that we are created for good works (Ephesians 2:10); and

WHEREAS, In the New Testament, one of the ministries of the church was to bring relief to those experiencing calamity (Acts 11:27-30); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have a long history of coming together to serve those who are hurt and in need, truly serving as the hands and feet of Christ to people during their greatest hour of need, bringing glory to God; and

WHEREAS, One of the most established and highly visible of these compassion ministries is Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is among the three largest civilian mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers, alongside the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, and the national network within the 42 state conventions includes 65,000 volunteers and 1,550 mobile units (cooking facilities, chainsaw and mud out equipment and supplies lockers, laundry machines, shower stations, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has responded domestically to help with recovery after such events as terrorist attacks, wildfires, and hurricanes, as well as international calamities as a tsunami, earthquakes and large-scale floods; and

WHEREAS, In 1996, Elizabeth Dole of the American Red Cross declared Southern Baptist volunteers had served more meals in disaster situations under the auspices of the Red Cross since Hurricane Hugo in 1989 than any private or religious group in the nation, and the Red Cross stated further in 2006 that Southern Baptist volunteers served 90 percent of the meals at their disaster relief sites following Hurricane Katrina; and



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WHEREAS, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are manning units now in Texas (Hurricane Harvey), Florida (Hurricane Irma), and Puerto Rico (Hurricane Maria) to aid in recovery; and

WHEREAS, 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministry with the 1967 relief effort by Texas Baptist Men after Hurricane Beulah ravaged the Gulf Coast (and preceded by a \$50,000 allocation from the Home Mission Board in 1996 for disaster response); and

WHEREAS, 2017 also marks the 15th anniversary of Disaster Relief in the SBC of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, Disaster Relief of the SBC of Virginia has demonstrated their ongoing ministry in meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people in times of crisis, and have made sharing the Gospel their primary passion and objective in training and in practice, now, therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, That we, the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12-14, 2017, do thank and commend the thousands of trained volunteers who have served with this ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we thank God for His favor in giving this ministry vision to Southern Baptists, in general, and to the SBC of Virginia, in, and for His provision of us for this mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge SBC of Virginia churches to commit to train up a new generation of volunteers, equipped and committed to serve the needs of others during times of human-made and natural calamities; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we pray for God to continue to use the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministry to bring physical and emotional comfort to the hurting during desperate times of need, and especially to use us to bring the message of hope in Christ to those who are living in spiritual darkness and in need of salvation.

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## Resolution 5

### THE 500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1), and for us that cloud of witnesses includes Old Testament saints, the Apostles, the Church Fathers, and a multitude of faithful believers throughout the history of the church; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, a document which set in motion a church reform movement that would sweep across Europe during the 16th century; and

WHEREAS, There have been other reformers and reform movements throughout the history of the church led by faithful believers who have called the church back to Scripture and the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, The teaching of salvation by grace alone through faith alone, on the basis of Christ alone, to the glory of God alone, with Scripture alone as our only final authority are principles that we, as Baptists, affirm and embrace wholeheartedly; and

WHEREAS, There are other doctrines held by Luther and many of the reformers, such as baptism and religious liberty, where we believe their reforms stopped short of their own Scriptural ideals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Homecoming, meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12–14, 2017, celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation's beginning and the positive reforms that movement was able to successfully implement, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we renew our commitment to Scripture alone as our final authority for all matters of faith and practice, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we renew our commitment to the gospel of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we renew our commitment to the glory of God as the ultimate purpose of all creation and redemption, and be it finally

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RESOLVED, That we will always continue the work of calling the Church back to the Scriptures, so that the vision of the Reformation and many other church reform movements might be realized in faithful New Testament churches who boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## **Resolution 6**

### **ON FBC SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TX**

WHEREAS, Our entire nation is grieving as a result of the mass shooting of forty-six people, resulting in the tragic deaths of twenty-six people, at First Baptist Church (FBC), Sutherland Springs, TX on November 5, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that God has created all men and women in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), and as the Author of life, regards acts of murder as evil (Matthew 16:18), and calls His people to love their neighbors as themselves (Matthew 22:39); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12-14, 2017, pray for the surviving victims, all affected families of those murdered, injured, and otherwise harmed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as they take the lead in ministering to Pastor Frank Pomeroy, his wife Sherri, and the surviving victims of FBC Sutherland Springs; and be it finally resolved

RESOLVED, That we condemn this act of violence and others like it and pray for the day when Jesus returns and all these senseless acts of violence cease.

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## **Resolution 7**

### **ON CHARLOTTESVILLE AND THE SIN OF RACISM**

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches, “From one man [God] has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live” (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, The Psalmist proclaimed, “The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord” (Psalm 24:1); and

WHEREAS, The Apostle Peter said, “God doesn’t show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him” (Acts 10:34–35); and

WHEREAS, Our justification before God is based on faith in Christ Jesus alone and not in our ethnicity (Galatians 3:27–28);

WHEREAS, Scripture proclaims that Jesus is purchasing by His blood believers “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9); and

WHEREAS, Throughout eternity we will gather with a “multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language” in worship of our risen Savior (Revelation 7:9); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 conveys that all Christians are obligated to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society, opposing all forms of racism, selfishness, and vice, and bringing government and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love; and

WHEREAS, Racism and ideologies of racial supremacy are, sadly, not extinct but present all over the world in various movements, including white supremacist movements, “white nationalism” or the “alt-right”; and

WHEREAS, these movements in the United States represent a growing threat to political order and justice that seeks to reignite social animosities, reverse improvements in race relations, and divide the people of our country, and

WHEREAS, these movements must be opposed for the totalitarian impulses, xenophobic biases, and bigoted ideologies that infect the minds and actions of its disciples and are contrary to Jesus’ command that we “love one another,” (John 13:34); and

WHEREAS, these racist philosophies are now influencing public discourse in America in ways that are contrary to Christian teaching (Galatians 3:28, Titus 1:9), and are, therefore, negative to our country, our colleges, our online communities, and, potentially, some of our churches; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2017, the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, overwhelmingly passed a resolution “On The Anti-Gospel Of Alt-Right White Supremacy,”

WHEREAS, white supremacists have gathered for rallies in May, August, and October of 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, these rallies were held to propagate white supremacist ideology and to attempt to intimidate those who oppose it, especially racial minorities, by making use of historical symbols, behavior, and slogans; and

WHEREAS, these rallies have gained national attention through media coverage, especially due to the deaths of two Virginia State Police Troopers, Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, and the death of Charlottesville resident Heather Heyer by a white supremacist who drove his car into a crowd gathered in Charlottesville in an act of domestic terrorism; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Homecoming, meeting in Colonial Heights, Virginia, November 12–14, 2017, extend our love and compassion to those in Charlottesville devastated by these events; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we decry every form of racism, including and specifically alt-right white supremacy, as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:34-43); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we denounce and repudiate every form of racial and ethnic hatred as a scheme of the devil intended to bring suffering and division to our society (1 Peter 5:8); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we denounce every form of nationalism that violates the biblical teachings with respect to race, justice, and ordered liberty (Philippians 3:20); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge that we still must make progress in rooting out any remaining forms of intentional or unintentional racism in our midst and we repent for failing to do so sooner (Mark 1:15); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we will guard our hearts and minds from consuming or embracing this evil ideology (Romans 12:2) ; and be it further



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RESOLVED, That we will stand with ethnic minorities and anyone else targeted for intimidation so that the attempt to devalue our fellow image bearers results in a bold witness of the sacrificial love to which Christ calls us (Galatians 2:11-13); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge any and all groups in our nation opposed to the alt-right and white supremacist movements, to only employ peaceful, non-violent means in their protest of these groups; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we will encourage churches of the SBC of Virginia to prayerfully consider increasing diversity among local church and denominational leadership (Acts 10:34-35); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we earnestly pray, both for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are thereby deceived, that they may see their error through the light of the Gospel, repent of these hatreds, and come to know the peace and love of Christ through redeemed fellowship in the Kingdom of God, which is established from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 5:9, 7:9).