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RESOLUTIONS OF THE SBC OF VIRGINIA 2019 ANNUAL HOMECOMING
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ROANOKE

Resolution 1

APPRECIATION TO FIRST ROANOKE, ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, The 2019 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 Dr. Bryan Smith and the people of First Roanoke; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, 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.

Resolution 2

PRAYER FOR OUR ELECTED LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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 to encourage good and restrain evil so 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



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

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

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, urge the churches of the SBC of Virginia to pray confidently, regularly, and fervently for our all our local, state, and national political leaders and government officials.

Resolution 3

APPRECIATION FOR THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, We appreciate the sacrificial service of our Armed Service veterans, and active duty personnel; and

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

WHEREAS, There are many Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Members of the Coast Guard currently serving in harm’s way; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, express our genuine gratitude to all veterans of the United States Armed Services for their commitment and sacrifice in the defense of our Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we pray for those who have suffered in the line of duty and for their families, especially those families who bear the scars of loved ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice; and be it finally

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

IN SUPPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS AS OUR DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

WHEREAS, The Bible affirms that we were created to be in relationship with God (Genesis 1-2) and that we (the church) are to be in relationship with one another and love one another (John 13:34-35); and

WHEREAS, The Bible is true, perfect, inerrant, eternal, transformational, a mirror to man's self-awareness, God's written revelation of Himself to us, and carries out God's purposes (John 17:17, Psalm 19:7, Isaiah 40:8, James 1:21-22, Isaiah 55:11, 13); and

WHEREAS, The Psalmist esteems the law of the Lord, the precepts and commandments of the Lord, and the Word of God, as worthy of meditation (Psalm 1:2, Psalm 119: 23,48,78, 148), memorization (Psalm 119:11), and as a source of life, peace, hope and direction for living (Psalm 119:105, 107, 147, 165); and

WHEREAS, The Bible asserts for itself that it is God-breathed and is altogether sufficient "for teaching, reproof, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and

WHEREAS, Jesus invited the twelve to follow Him and learn from Him as His disciples (Matthew 4:19); and

WHEREAS, The method of disciple-making modeled by Jesus serves as an example for our churches to organize in groups for discipleship and to carry His message to the world; and

WHEREAS, Jesus instructed His followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey everything He commanded (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, Members of the early church gathered regularly in the temple courts and in smaller gatherings from house to house for teaching, prayer, breaking bread, and fellowship (Acts 2:42-46), and

WHEREAS, God has gifted the church with individuals with the spiritual gift of teaching for the equipping of the saints to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have a long history of utilizing Sunday School and Small Groups to accomplish the biblical mandate of making disciples; and



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WHEREAS, Southern Baptists have long used Sunday School and Small Groups to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of outreach and disciple making; and

WHEREAS, Fallen humanity tends toward isolation, so Sunday School and Small Groups provide a place for biblically sound fellowship (Proverbs 18:1, Ecclesiastes 4:7-10, Acts 2:40-42, 1 John 1:3); and

WHEREAS, The fields of humanity are ripe unto harvest and more laborers are needed to complete the task of reaching the lost with the Gospel (Luke 2:10); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, do hereby acknowledge the value of Sunday School and Small Groups for their contribution in helping the church make disciples of Jesus; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all members of our churches to engage in Sunday School or Small Groups where biblical community is experienced, God's Word is studied, and accountability exists for being hearers and doers of the Word (James 1:22); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge the giftedness of men, women, boys and girls who are followers of Jesus and whom God has equipped with the gift of teaching to assist the local church in its mission of making disciples; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our thanks to God for those who serve as teachers and leaders in our Sunday School and Small Group ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we renew our commitment to starting new Sunday School classes and Small Groups for the purpose of making disciples throughout our churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers who will serve as leaders and teachers of Sunday School classes and Small Groups that are committed to seeing lives transformed by Christ through discipleship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we the messengers of this convention confess the importance of continual growth and multiplication of disciples, and hereby commit ourselves to the task of going to those who are far from God, taking the Gospel to them, and starting new Sunday School classes and Small Groups for the glory of God in the coming year – 2020.



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Resolution 5

ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC UNITY

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); 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, decry every form of racism 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 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 it sooner (Mark 1:15); and be it further

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



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RESOLVED, That we will encourage churches of the SBC of Virginia to intentionally join in fellowship and partnership with like-minded congregations that represent more diverse racial and ethnic demographics than their own (Hebrews 10:24-25); and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That we will 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).

Resolution 6

ON ABUSE AND CARING WELL FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

WHEREAS, God has created all people in His image with equal value and dignity (Genesis 1:26-27); and

WHEREAS, God detests all forms of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and calls on His people to defend abuse victims (Psalm 82:4) and to stand for justice (Psalm 82:3; Proverbs 31:8-9), and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 states, “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick” (Article XV); and

WHEREAS, Biblical teaching on relationships neither supports nor fosters, but rather prevents and condemns all forms of abuse (Mark 12:31; Romans 13:10, Ephesians 4:32); now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the SBC of Virginia Annual Homecoming meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, November 10-12, 2019, condemn all forms of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and repudiate with a unified voice all abusive behavior as unquestionably sinful; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge that all forms of abuse attempt to destroy the Biblical fact that we are all created in the image of God; and be it further



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RESOLVED, That we wholeheartedly care for the heart, soul, mind, and body of all victims and urge them to contact civil authorities when appropriate, while giving them protection, care, and support from the local church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all pastors, leaders, and volunteers within the SBC of Virginia to appropriately report abuse allegations to proper authorities to protect victims; and be it further

RESOLVED, That through care and compassion we encourage and affirm to all people experiencing the injustice of abuse that they are not at fault and that personal guilt falls directly on the abuser; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call all persons participating and enabling abuse to confess and repent of their sin to God, and to take all appropriate steps to admit their sin to church leaders, victims, and civil authorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all pastors and church leaders to be faithful examples, through words and actions, and to speak against all forms of abuse; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all pastors and church leaders to foster an environment in their churches that is safe for victims to share and to be nurtured biblically; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on all SBC of Virginia churches to implement specific policies and practices that protect our children, students, and adults from abuse and protect our churches and leaders from allegations if the policies are followed appropriately; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we affirm that God has created all people in His image with equal value and dignity and affirm the responsibility of all Christians to seek the welfare of the abused.