



# WEDNESDAY

2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION DAILY BULLETIN

99<sup>TH</sup> VOLUME | NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER | JUNE 13-14, 2023

2023  
Annual Meeting

# NEW ORLEANS

Serving  
the Lord



Serving  
others

## PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS

### TUESDAY MORNING

June 13, 2023

- 8:00** **Worship** — James Cheesman, Convention music director; worship pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 8:10** **Opening Prayer**
- 8:15** **Welcome and Call to Order** — Bart Barber, SBC president; pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 8:25** **Registration Report and Constitution of Convention** — Don Currence, SBC registration secretary; administrative pastor, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Missouri
- 8:30** **Committee on Order of Business Report (First)** — Spence Shelton, chair; lead pastor, Mercy Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 8:35** **Introduction for New Motions (First)**
- 8:55** **North American Mission Board Honoring Our Chaplains** — Major General Doug Carver, U.S. Army retired, executive director of chaplaincy, NAMB, Alpharetta, Georgia
- 9:07** **North American Mission Board Report** — Kevin Ezell, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Georgia
- 9:16** **North American Mission Board Presentation** — Kevin Ezell
- 9:41** **International Mission Board Report** — Paul Chitwood, president, International Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia
- 9:50** **Mission Sending Celebration** — Paul Chitwood
- 10:35** **Worship** — James Cheesman
- 10:50** **President's Address** — Bart Barber
- 11:30** **Closing Prayer**

*(schedule continues on page 2)*

## WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS

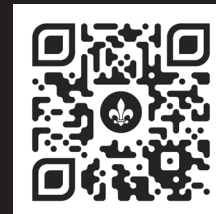
Welcome to the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, a time of worship, fellowship, and business as messengers and guests from our church family gather over two days to continue our mission to propagate the Gospel here, there, and everywhere. I am exceedingly grateful for the hospitality and hard work of so many from New Orleans and the great state of Louisiana to make this great city our home this week.

We will conduct important business set before us, hear how God is moving in and through our entities, and, my personal favorite, commission nearly 100 missionaries to the nations. But we will also sing passionately, pray expectantly, and hear God's Word joyfully—as this is more than just a business meeting! What's more, we will continue working together to ensure every Southern Baptist church is a safe space for every man, woman, boy, and girl to worship our risen Savior.

So take your seat, and let us strive forward—together—in service to the Lord and others as we begin our two-day family reunion at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. Sing loud, pray hard, listen well, and let us work together for God's glory.

Serving the Lord,  
*Bart Barber, SBC President*

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The 2023 SBC Annual Meeting app is home to everything you need to know for this year's gathering in New Orleans. Scan the QR code or search "SBC Annual Meeting" in your phone's app store.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON

June 13, 2023

- 2:00** **Worship**—James Cheesman, Convention music director; worship pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 2:10** **Opening Prayer**
- 2:15** **Committee on Committees Report** — Riley Prather, chair; lead pastor, Green Valley Crossing, Putnam, Connecticut
- 2:25** **Committee on Nominations Report** — Michael Criner, chair; lead pastor, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brownsboro, Texas
- 2:40** **Committee on Resolutions Report (Part 1)** — David Sons, chair; lead pastor, Lake Murray Baptist Church, Lexington, South Carolina
- 3:10** **Election of President**
- 3:20** **Executive Committee Report (Part 1)** — Willie D. McLaurin, interim president and CEO, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tennessee
- 3:45** **Miscellaneous Business**
- 4:15** **Committee on Order of Business Report (Second)** — Spence Shelton, chair; lead pastor, Mercy Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 4:30** **Introduction for New Motions (Last Opportunity)**
- 4:50** **Election of First Vice President**
- 5:00** **Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force Report** — Marshall Blalock, chair; pastor, First Baptist Church, Charleston, South Carolina
- 5:25** **Closing Prayer**

## WEDNESDAY MORNING

June 14, 2023

- 8:00** **Worship**—James Cheesman, Convention music director; worship pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 8:05** **Opening Prayer**
- 8:10** **Woman's Missionary Union Report** — Sandra Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama
- 8:16** **GuideStone Financial Resources Report** — D. Hance Dilbeck Jr., president and CEO, GuideStone Financial Resources, Dallas, Texas
- 8:25** **Lifeway Christian Resources Report** — Ben Mandrell, president and CEO, Lifeway Christian Resources, Brentwood, Tennessee
- 8:34** **Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Report** — Brent Leatherwood, president, The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville, Tennessee
- 8:43** **Election of Second Vice President**
- 8:53** **Worship**

- 9:05** **Convention Sermon** — Todd Unzicker, executive director-treasurer, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary, North Carolina
- 9:45** **Committee on Order of Business Report (Third)** — Spence Shelton, chair; lead pastor, Mercy Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 10:05** **Previously Scheduled Business** — Bart Barber, SBC president; pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 10:25** **Executive Committee Report (Part 2)**
- 10:55** **Committee on Resolutions Report (Part 2)** — David Sons, chair; lead pastor, Lake Murray Baptist Church, Lexington, South Carolina
- 11:25** **Closing Prayer**

## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

June 14, 2023

- 2:30** **Worship** — James Cheesman, Convention music director; First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas
- 2:40** **Opening Prayer**
- 2:45** **Election of Recording Secretary**
- 2:55** **Election of Registration Secretary**
- 3:05** **Joint Seminary Reports** —
- Jeff Iorg, president, Gateway Seminary, Ontario, California;
- Jason K. Allen, president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri;
- James K. Dew Jr., president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana;
- Daniel L. Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina;
- R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky;
- David Dockery, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
- 4:00** **Previously Scheduled Business**
- 4:20** **Committee on Resolutions Report (Part 3)** — David Sons, chair; lead pastor, Lake Murray Baptist Church, Lexington, South Carolina
- 4:50** **Committee on Order of Business Report (Fourth)** — Spence Shelton, chair; lead pastor, Mercy Church, Charlotte, North Carolina
- Election of 2024 Convention Preacher, Alternate Preacher, and Music Director**
- 5:00** **Presentation of Officers**
- 5:10** **Closing Prayer**

## CONVENTION STANDING RULES

1. A messenger may seek recognition in one of five ways as listed below. Buttons A–D will be recognized in the order received alternating for and against except for interrupting motions.
  - a. **For** — Allows a messenger to debate in favor of a motion or make any motion in order.
  - b. **Against** — Allows a messenger to debate in opposition of a motion or make any motion in order.
  - c. **Motion** — Allows a messenger to make any motion that is in order, including motions that would normally interrupt a speaker such as a request for information, parliamentary inquiry, or question of privilege. If a messenger wishes to make one of these interrupting motions, they must relay to the page that they are making one of these motions to receive priority in recognition. A messenger recognized for preference in recognition may not debate or offer any other secondary motion. This may not be used to circumvent the line for debate. Please note that a request for information is a request to receive, not give, factual information.
  - d. **Amendment/Other** — Allows a messenger to make an amendment or other secondary motion as well as debate the previous question.
  - e. **Point of Order** — Only to be used when a rule has been broken or the chair has made a ruling on an item. The only motions in order under this category are point of order and appeal.
2. In the Southern Baptist Convention, a motion shall be defined as calling for specific action by the Southern Baptist Convention or requesting specific action by one or more of its entities. A resolution is defined as an expression of opinion or concern, as compared to a motion which calls for action.
3. The time limits in the adopted program are enforceable. The start times in the adopted program do not constitute special orders for a specific time and are for guidance only.

## ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED EVENTS

### TUESDAY, JUNE 13

**Ministers' Wives Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Tues. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Great Hall. SOLD OUT

**For The Church Micro-Conference (sponsored by MBTS):** 12:00 PM (or following the Tues. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Theater, Level 2. Tickets: \$18; more info available in the SBC Annual Meeting app. *Featuring worship, and a panel on the topic of Preparing Pastors & Planting Churches. Ticket includes boxed lunch.*

**Black Multicultural Emerging Leaders:** 12:00 PM (or following the Tues. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Room 201-202. SOLD OUT. *This event is an SBC EC, IMB, and Lifeway partnership that supports the community, exploration, multiplication, momentum and cooperation among emerging leaders*

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

**SEBTS Women's Leadership Breakfast:** 7:00 AM; New Orleans Convention Center, Room 225-227. Tickets: \$15; more info available in the SBC Annual Meeting app. *Topic: Together We Go: Keeping Jesus's Mission at the Center*

**Bivocational & Small Church Leadership Network Luncheon (sponsored by NAMB):** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Room 208-210. For bivocational pastors and families; for more information, visit exhibit hall booth. .

### SEMINARY LUNCHEONS • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

**Gateway Seminary Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Rivergate Room.

**MBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Theater, Level 2.

**NOBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); New Orleans Convention Center, Great Hall.

**SEBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); The Sugar Mill, 1021 Convention Center Blvd.

**SBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); Sheraton New Orleans, Napoleon Ballroom.

**SWBTS Alumni & Friends Luncheon:** 12:00 PM (or following the Wed. morning session); Sheraton New Orleans, Grand Ballroom.

*The events listed above are those sponsored by SBC entities, but do not reflect all of the events that will be taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday. For a complete listing, visit [sbcannualmeeting.net/events](http://sbcannualmeeting.net/events) or download the SBC Annual Meeting app.*

**2023 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

Ben Hayes, AL  
 Trish Jackson, AL  
 Michael Bunton, AK  
 Donna Fleury, AK  
 Donna Guillott, AZ  
 Josue Castro, AZ  
 Scott Miller, AR  
 Laura Bramlett, AR  
 Terrence Shay, CA  
 Abel Galvan, CA  
 Lindsay Acocella, CO  
 Tyann DeClue, CO  
 Clint Ellis, FL  
 Marcie Coleman, FL  
 Brad Whitt, GA  
 Pablo Paredes, GA  
 Amel Dominguez, HI  
 Gay Williams, HI  
 Jimmy Fowler, IL  
 Sean Stevenson, IL  
 Nettie Beck, IN  
 Bobby Pell, IN  
 John Harms, KS (KS-NE)  
 Sarah Alexander, NE (KS-NE)  
 Ben Stratton, KY  
 Terry Wilder, KY  
 Steven Beckham, LA  
 Jennifer Peloquin, LA  
 Robert Anderson, MD (MD-DE-DC)  
 Greg Kame, MD (MD-DE-DC)  
 Ben Hernandez, MI  
 Taylor Springs, MI  
 Cassie Stanteen\*\*, MS  
 Matt Powell, MS

Justin Perry, MO  
 Brian Jump, MO  
 Oscar Munguia, NV  
 Julio Calderin, NV  
 Riley Prather\*, CT (New England)  
 Joe Souza, MA (New England)  
 Jared Bridge, NM  
 Dusty Marshall, NM  
 Gale Dingwell, NY  
 Bill Pitcher, NY  
 J. Allen Murray, NC  
 Quintell Hill, NC  
 Daniel Schreiner, OR (Northwest)  
 Andrew Nguyen, WA (Northwest)  
 Jonathan Lyons, OH  
 John Hays, OH  
 Jennifer Barnett, IN  
 Luke Holmes, IN  
 Jerome Coleman, PA (PA-SJ)  
 Chuck Chamberlain, PA (PA-SJ)  
 Lamont Sullivan, SC  
 Albert Allen, SC  
 Evan Owens, TN  
 Jay Barbier, TN  
 Nhora Medina, TX  
 Brad Patterson, TX  
 Timothy O'Day, UT (UT-ID)  
 Bobby Wood, UT (UT-ID)  
 Felix Sermon, VA  
 Angie Anthony, VA  
 Matt Magness, WV  
 Ben Moses, WV  
 Robert Peterson, WY  
 Ronda Groteluschen, WY

**2023 COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

Scott Bannon, AL  
 Mark Bethea, AL  
 Shirley Bearce, AK  
 Jody Winquist, AK  
 Ricky Aulds, AZ  
 Andrew Marquez, AZ  
 Derek Spicer, AR  
 Hunter Thompson, AR  
 Kenneth Curry, CA  
 Carola Manriquez, CA  
 Chris Phillips, CO  
 Nathan Wolfe, CO  
 Ryan Noble, FL  
 Tim O'Carroll, FL  
 J.B. Brown, GA  
 David Deeter, GA  
 Shaw Okawara, HI  
 Diana Ventura, HI  
 Bruce Kirk, IL  
 Hazel Noble, IL  
 Cassandra Frost, IN  
 Ethan Little, IN  
 Tyler Ball, KS (KS-NE)  
 Haley Lester, NE (KS-NE)  
 Jennifer Ringstaff, KY  
 Dan Summerlin, KY  
 Michael Linton, LA  
 Judith Roberts, LA  
 Tim Byer, MD (MD-DE-DC)  
 Cecil Cunigan, MD (MD-DE-DC)  
 Melissa Buck, MI  
 Brandon Watkins, MI  
 Greg Belser, MS  
 Cyndi Grace, MS

Jason Marfield, MO  
 Darin Smith, MO  
 Ron Sharp, NV  
 Vanessa Woody, NV  
 Melissa Busby, MA (New England)  
 Santiago Paredes, MA (New England)  
 Michelle Brittain, NM  
 Ricardo Rivera, NM  
 Steven Berrios, NY  
 Patrick Thompson, NY  
 Annie Locke, NC  
 Amaury Santos, NC  
 Billy Arnold, WA (Northwest)  
 Dexter Davis, WA (Northwest)  
 James Risner, OH  
 Ben Smallwood, OH  
 Lauren McAfee, OK  
 Troy Taylor, OK  
 Elizabeth Bengene, PA (PA-S. Jersey)  
 Chris Betner, NJ (PA-S. Jersey)  
 Wes Church, SC  
 Dorothy Sherwood, SC  
 Jonathan Akin, TN  
 Wendy Street, TN  
 Michael Criner, TX  
 Daniel Walker, TX  
 Mary McFarling, ID (UT-ID)  
 Janna Savage, UT (UT-ID)  
 Alexis Shipp, VA  
 Dave Velloney, VA  
 Cleve Persinger, WV  
 Zack Simpson, WV  
 Dan Hill, WY  
 Jerry Leeper, WY

**LOCAL ENCOURAGEMENT TEAM**

Jay Adkins\*  
 Kay Bennett  
 Teresa Bovia  
 Alex Brian  
 Jamie Dew  
 Chad Gilbert  
 Geovany Gomez  
 Steve Horn  
 Inman Houston  
 Jack Hunter  
 Fred Luter, Jr.  
 Chip Luter

Larry Lyon  
 Preston Nix  
 Hannah Pounds  
 Mark Robinson  
 Janet Williams  
 George Ross  
 Chris Shaffer  
 Jimmy Stewart  
 Thomas Strong  
 Ray Swift  
 Philip Vandercook  
 Dennis Watson

**2023 REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

William Maxwell  
 Penny Keathley  
 John Francis  
 Sharon Coppenger  
 Jared Cornutt  
 John Cofer  
 Trent Broussard  
 Jonathan Greer  
 Steve Baumgardener  
 Peggy Alexander  
 Rickesh Patel

Brittany McNair  
 Kurt Hetherington  
 Allison Payne  
 Melody Hawks  
 Alexander Lyman  
 Brandon Groce  
 Nick Johnson  
 Amber Mathis\*  
 Denny Goren  
 Thaum Khai  
 Jason Points



**SCAN HERE TO DOWNLOAD  
 THE SBC ANNUAL MEETING APP**

*Attended last year's Annual Meeting? No need to re-download as the app should automatically update.*

## Tuesday Proceedings

1. James Cheesman (TX), Convention music director; worship leader, First Baptist Church, Farmersville, led corporate praise and worship.
2. Jack Hunter (LA), executive director, New Orleans Baptist Association welcomed the messengers and led in prayer for the Convention and President C. Bart Barber (TX), pastor, First Baptist Church, Farmersville.
3. Willie McLaurin (TN), interim president and CEO, SBC Executive Committee, presented the Judson gavel to President Barber (TX).
4. President Barber (TX) welcomed messengers and introduced Al Gage (AZ), chief parliamentarian, along with assistant parliamentarians Craig Culbreth (FL), Kyle Hamby (TX), and Alex Ward (MS).
5. President Barber (TX) called attention to the Tuesday SBC Bulletin for instructions about motions, use of digital pre-filing of motions and the following appointments: Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Registration Committee, and Tellers.
6. President Barber (TX) introduced Don Currence (MO), SBC registration secretary, minister of administration, First Baptist Church, Ozark, for the registration report and the constitution of the annual meeting. Currence reported that as of 8:18 a.m. there were 11,720 messengers registered. The report was adopted.
7. President Barber (TX) recognized Spence Shelton (NC), chair, Committee on Order of Business, Mercy Church, Charlotte. Shelton moved the adoption of the Convention Standing Rules. The Convention Standing Rules were adopted.
8. President Barber (TX) recognized Spence Shelton (NC), chair, Committee on Order of Business. Shelton moved the adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted.
9. President Barber (TX) announced the time for the introduction of new motions and gave instructions.
10. Aaron Wright (TX) presented a motion: to suspend the rules to bring out a disposed resolution.
11. John Michael LaRue (OH) presented a motion: to amend the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force to remove the ministry check website.
12. JD Strouth (IN) presented a motion: to clarify whether the Baptist Faith and Message requires closed communion.
13. Keith Myer (MD) presented a motion: to amend the SBC Organizational Manual so ERLC assists churches and entities in responding to abuse.
14. Barry Holcomb (MS) presented a motion: to adjust policies and practices related to selecting presidential executive leaders.
15. Tim Overton (IN) presented a motion: to provide timely trustee training.
16. Samuel Gilliam (LA) presented a motion: to request that Baptist Press release security footage from the 2021 SBC annual meeting related to the interaction between a SBC presidential candidate and a sex abuse survivor.
17. Rhett Burns (SC) presented a motion: to require entities to submit the information found in a Form 990 to the Convention.
18. Ben Bowden (AL) presented a motion: to ask the Executive to study whether any Executive staff member should also serve as treasurer for the SBC.
19. Dusty Deevers (OK) presented a motion: to ask the Credentials Committee to investigate any churches involved in LGBTQ+ affirming ministries.
20. Jared Cornutt (AL) presented a motion: to amend article VI of BF&M 2000 to add "elder/overseer" alongside "pastor."
21. David Norman (TX) presented a motion: to amend the Business and Financial Plan for printing of financial reports in the BOR and to include information required by Form 990.
22. Michael White (GA) presented a motion: to make resolutions available to the public in writing 12 days before the annual meeting.
23. Todd Stinnett (TN) presented a motion: to call for messengers to bring out his disposed resolution for a vote.
24. Michelle Lesley (LA) presented a motion: to suspend bylaw 26B and direct Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to fund and conduct an independent, third-party investigation of allegations related to seminary employees mistreating an abuse victim.
25. President Barber (TX) recognized Chaplain Major General Doug Carver (GA), U.S. Army retired; executive director of chaplaincy, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, to lead with other military chaplains in a time of celebrating freedom through prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.
26. President Barber (TX) recognized Kevin Ezell (GA), president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, for the North American Mission Board report. Ezell was then joined on stage by Tim Dowdy (GA), Vice President of Evangelism, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, for the Crossover report. Dowdy reported that 12,180 participated in the event, 3,487 Gospel presentations were made, and 336 professions of faith were made. Ezell then gave the NAMB presentation.
27. Ezell was then joined by Bryant Wright (GA), president, Send Relief, Alpharetta, and Paul Chitwood (VA), president, International Mission Board, Richmond, for the North American Mission Board presentation in which the three leaders dialogued about the work of Send Relief. Wright closed in prayer.
28. President Barber (TX) recognized Paul Chitwood (VA), president, International Mission Board, Richmond, for the International Mission Board report.
29. President Barber (TX) passed the gavel to Victor Chayasirisobhon (CA), SBC first vice president, First Southern Baptist Church, Anaheim, to preside for the remainder of the session and called on Paul Chitwood (VA), president, International Mission Board, to lead in the International Mission Board Sending Celebration of 79 new missionaries.
30. James Cheesman (TX), Convention music director, led corporate praise and worship.

## Tuesday Proceedings (continued)

31. Victor Chayasirisobhon (CA) recognized President Barber (TX) to give the presidential address.
32. President Barber (TX) delivered the 2023 President's Address: See the Beauty
33. Courtney Aston (KS) closed the session in prayer.
34. James Cheesman (TX), Convention music director, led corporate praise and worship.
35. Jennifer Barnett (OK) opened the session in prayer.
36. President Barber (TX) prayed for the family of Michael Catt (GA), former pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany.
37. President Barber (TX) recognized Riley Prather (CT), chair, Committee on Committees for the report of the Committee on Committees. The report was adopted.
38. President Barber (TX) recognized Michael Criner (TX), chair, Committee on Committees for the report of the Committee on Nominations. The report was adopted.
39. President Barber (TX) recognized David Sons (SC), chair, Committee on Resolutions for the report of the Committee on Resolutions. The report was adopted.
40. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Julio Arriola (TX) who moved the adoption of Resolution 1. The resolution was adopted.
41. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Dani Bryson (TN) who moved the adoption of Resolution 2. The resolution was adopted.
42. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Kristen Ferguson (CA) who moved the adoption of Resolution 3. The resolution was adopted.
43. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Stacey Gaylord (MT) who moved the adoption of Resolution 4. The resolution was adopted.
44. President Barber (TX) recognized Spence Shelton (NC), chair, Committee on Order of Business, Mercy Church, Charlotte. Shelton moved to extend the time for resolutions for seven additional minutes.
45. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Malcolm Yarnell (TX) who moved the adoption of Resolution
5. The resolution was adopted.
46. David Sons (SC), chair, Resolutions Committee, recognized Rob Collingsworth (TX) who moved the adoption of Resolution
6. Brian Gunter (LA) offered an amendment. Tom Ascol (FL) offered an amendment to the amendment. The resolution was adopted as amended.
47. President Barber (TX) passed the gavel to Alex Sands (SC), SBC second vice president, First Southern Baptist Church, Anaheim, to preside over the election of SBC President.
48. Second Vice President Alex Sands (SC) announced the time for nominations for president: Jarrett Stevens (TX) nominated Bart Barber (TX); Willy Rice (FL) nominated Mike Stone (GA). Sands called on Don Currence (MO), SBC registration secretary, to give balloting instructions to messengers. Ballots were cast.
49. President Barber (TX) recognized Willie McLaurin (TN), interim president, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, for the SBC Executive Committee report. McLaurin was then joined on stage by Scott Brown (TN), associational missions strategist, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, to thank the Convention for their support of the Cooperative Program. McLaurin then recognized David Sons (SC), chair, SBC Executive Committee, for the consideration of the SBC Executive Committee recommendations.
50. David Sons (SC), chair recognized Archie Mason (AR) who moved the adoption of Recommendation 1. The recommendation was adopted.
51. David Sons (SC), chair recognized Archie Mason (AR) who moved the adoption of Recommendation 2. The recommendation was adopted.
52. David Sons (SC), chair recognized Anthony Dockery (CA) who moved the adoption of Recommendation 3. Robert White (SC), who made the resolution, asked a question about Recommendation 3. Sons responded. White asked a follow-up question. Sons responded. The recommendation was adopted.
53. President Barber (TX) announced an appeal from Fern Creek Church in Louisville, KY. Linda Popham (KY) offered an appeal on behalf of the church. David Sons (SC) invited Albert Mohler (KY) to offer a response to the appeal on behalf of the SBC Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee.
54. President Barber (TX) announced an appeal from Freedom Church in Vero Beach, FL. Donald Stewart (FL) offered an appeal on behalf of the church. David Sons (SC) invited Dean Inserra (FL) to offer a response to the appeal on behalf of the SBC Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee.
55. President Barber (TX) announced an appeal from Saddleback Church in Mission Viejo, CA. Rick Warren (CA) offered an appeal on behalf of the church. David Sons (SC) invited Albert Mohler (KY) to offer a response to the appeal on behalf of the SBC Executive Committee and the Credentials Committee.
56. President Barber (TX) called forward Willie McLaurin (TN), who recognized Linda Cooper (TN) as the outgoing chair of the Credentials Committee.
57. Don Currence (MO), SBC registration secretary, announced results of the presidential election. 12,710 messengers were registered at the time of the vote with 11,014 ballots cast. Bart Barber received 7,531 votes (68.38%). Mike Stone received 3,458 votes (31.40%). 25 votes (0.23%) were disqualified.
- \*\*\*\*\*Due to contractual agreement with the printer of the Daily Bulletin, the printed proceedings stop at item number 57. The remainder of the proceedings will appear in full in the SBC Annual which will publish in early fall 2023. \*\*\*\*\**

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE 2023 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

### 1: ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REVITALIZATION AND REPLANTING

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention exists for the purpose of “eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel” (Preamble to Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention); and

WHEREAS, Many local Southern Baptist churches face significant challenges, including declining attendance, conflict, lack of discipleship, and lack of community impact; and

WHEREAS, Church revitalization and replanting are biblical and strategic approaches to address the decline and restore the spiritual health, vibrancy, and missional effectiveness of local congregations; and

WHEREAS, Scripture exhorts believers to persevere in their commitment to the local church, admonishing them to encourage one another, to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, and not to neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10:24-25); and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists acknowledge the diverse approaches and models of church revitalization and replanting and recognize that effective strategies may vary depending on the unique circumstances and the needs of individual congregations; and

WHEREAS, Local associations, state conventions, and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have committed time, resources, and manpower to strengthening churches through revitalization and replant initiatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, affirm church revitalization and replanting as an important component of fulfilling the Great Commission and advancing the kingdom of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Southern Baptists encourage our churches to prayerfully consider the urgency and significance of church revitalization and replanting, prioritizing the spiritual health, discipleship, and missional engagement of their congregations, and ways their churches might engage in helping other churches in this work; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Southern Baptists are encouraged to continue providing robust resources, training opportunities, and support systems to assist churches in their revitalization and replanting efforts through NAMB and partnership with state conventions and local associations, including the development of relevant curriculum, conferences, mentorship programs, and partnerships with experienced practitioners in the field; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we fervently pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment in the work of church revitalization and replanting, that His transformative power may revive and restore countless congregations, enabling them to effectively fulfill their mission to reach their communities and the world with the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

### 2: ON NEEDED CARE AND SUPPORT FOR PASTORS AND MINISTRY LEADERS

WHEREAS, Scripture describes the significant internal and external struggles of spiritual leaders as they faithfully fulfill their callings (Numbers 11:1-3; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Matthew 26:36-46; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7); and

WHEREAS, Faithful servants of God expressed their struggles to God and one another (Psalm 13:1-6, 56:8; Jonah 4:3; Romans 7:14-25); and

WHEREAS, Ministering to those who lead God's people honors the Lord (Philippians 2:25; Hebrews 13:17); and

WHEREAS, In recent years, pastors and other ministry leaders have encountered difficult, unique, and multifaceted challenges as they sought to fulfill their ministry callings and assignments; and

WHEREAS, The reality of internal struggles among spiritual leaders has reached a critical point, with current research<sup>1</sup> indicating that 42% of pastors are thinking of leaving the ministry in the next year, 80% believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families, 75% of pastors have reported a significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry, and 70% of pastors do not have someone they consider to be a close friend; and

WHEREAS, The spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional well-being of pastors and other ministry leaders helps them lead God's people faithfully; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, affirm the importance of godly relationships, counseling, rest, and recreation that contributes to the overall wellness of pastors and other ministry leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the kingdom work being done by local associations, state conventions, and denominational entities to provide care for pastors and other ministry leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage pastors and other ministry leaders not to bear their burdens in isolation, but to seek help when needed—both for their own sakes and for the good of those to whom they are called to minister; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we exhort churches and ministries to encourage spiritual leaders in need of care to seek help, and neither ignore nor stigmatize the internal and external struggles of ministry leaders; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commit to labor together to promote a culture of holistic flourishing among our pastors and other ministry leaders in our local churches, our local associations and state conventions, and our denominational entities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://pastoralcareinc.com/statistics>

**3: ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

WHEREAS, All technology, including powerful tools such as artificial intelligence (AI), is created by human beings with the gifts and abilities that God has granted to us as the pinnacle of the created order (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 5:1-2) and can be harnessed for human flourishing as we seek to love God and neighbor (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:30-31); and

WHEREAS, Although these tools are designed with distinct values and purposes in mind and shape us in subtle, yet meaningful ways—including our understanding of God, humanity, and the world around us—we alone, as distinct moral agents created by God, bear the moral responsibility for their development and use (Romans 12:1-2); and

WHEREAS, The Fall has adversely affected every aspect of creation, including the development and use of these powerful innovations; and

WHEREAS, AI raises deep, crucial questions that challenge society's false assumptions about what it means to be human which are often rooted merely in human capacities rather than in divinely granted ontological status; and

WHEREAS, AI and other emerging technologies afford us unprecedented opportunities for advancement across industries and throughout our societies, but may also have dangerous and dehumanizing outcomes if not utilized with godly wisdom and discernment; and

WHEREAS, Technologies are often developed and deployed merely to maximize profit, efficiency, and productivity, including at the grave cost of the dignity of our fellow image bearers; and

WHEREAS, These emerging technologies will increasingly perform tasks once reserved for humanity and even surpass human ability in particular ways; and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message states that "[a]ll Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society" and that we "should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love" (Article XV); and

WHEREAS, The 2019 Evangelical Statement of Principles on AI, led by our own Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, states that Christians are "called to engage the world around us with the unchanging gospel message of hope and reconciliation" and that "[t]he church has a unique role in proclaiming human dignity for all and calling for the humane use of AI in all aspects of society"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, acknowledge the powerful nature of AI and other emerging technologies, desiring to engage them from a place of eschatological hope rather than uncritical embrace or fearful rejection; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm that God's unchanging Word is more than sufficient for whatever ethical challenges, questions, and opportunities we may face today or in the future as these technologies continue to be developed and deployed in our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we state unequivocally that our intrinsic value is as image bearers—not rooted in what we do or contribute to society—and that human dignity must be central to any ethical principles, guidelines, or regulations for any and all uses of these powerful emerging technologies; and be it further

RESOLVED, We must proactively engage and shape these emerging technologies rather than simply respond to the challenges of AI and other emerging technologies after they have already affected our churches and communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon civic, industry, and government leaders to develop, maintain, regulate, and use these technologies with the utmost care and discernment, upholding the unique nature of humanity as the crowning achievement of God's creation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all who employ these tools to do so in honest, transparent, and Christlike ways that focus on loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves, never seeking to willfully deceive others or take advantage of them for unjust gain or the accumulation of power; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we confess that God alone has the power to create life, that "God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end" (Baptist Faith and Message, Article X), and that no innovation or emerging technology will ever be able to usurp the sovereignty and power of God.

**4: ON WISELY ENGAGING IMMIGRATION**

WHEREAS, By creating them in His own image, God bestowed upon every human inherent value and dignity no matter their background, race, ethnicity, national origin, or language; and

WHEREAS, For the ordering of civil society, God has ordained human government to both restrain evil and promote the good of its people in the distinct roles entrusted to government by God (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14); and

WHEREAS, Flowing from these God-given responsibilities, governments should promote peace and order, including strong borders and clear immigration policies as well as care for migrants— not sacrificing one for the other or capitulating to the ever-shifting cultural and political values of the day; and

WHEREAS, Southern Baptists are deeply grateful for the men and women who continue to serve our nation and protect its people by patrolling and protecting the border and seeking the good of our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Christians, including Southern Baptists, have long sought to care for the vulnerable, to promote the dignity and unity of the family, and to provide for those who come to this nation seeking safety, freedom, and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, In the 2018 resolution "On Immigration," Southern Baptists declared our "desire to see immigration reform include an emphasis on *(resolutions continue on next page)*



securing our borders and providing a pathway to legal status with appropriate restitutionary measures, maintaining the priority of family unity, resulting in an efficient immigration system that honors the value and dignity of those seeking a better life for themselves and their families"; and WHEREAS, In the same resolution, we rightly proclaimed that "any form of nativism, mistreatment, or exploitation is inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ"; and

WHEREAS, God commands us to take the gospel to all people (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8), and here, the nations of the world are coming to our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Our churches continue to strive to reflect the kingdom of heaven which includes people from every tribe, nation, and tongue—including immigrants—who seek to love God and love their neighbor as themselves as they serve our communities in faithfulness and are part of God's work in revitalizing our churches (Matthew 22:37-39); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, affirm the inherent dignity and value of immigrants and refugees, regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, culture, national origin, or legal status; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we ask our government leaders to provide clear guidance for immigrants and asylum seekers regarding border policies, legal entry into this country, and work opportunities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we implore our government leaders to maintain robust avenues for valid asylum claimants seeking refuge and to create legal pathways to permanent status for immigrants who are in our communities by no fault of their own, prioritizing the unity of families; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage elected officials to prioritize measures that secure our borders and to provide adequate resources to border patrol and those working in our immigration system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge our government to take swift and bold action to protect and prevent the exploitation of unaccompanied immigrant children arriving to the United States; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on federal and state governments to work together in the common pursuit of securing our border, upholding the dignity of immigrants, and protecting our communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the good work of Southern Baptists among immigrants and refugees and encourage pastors and their congregations to continue sharing the gospel and providing Christlike care for the countless men, women, and children in harm's way; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we ensure that the language and manner in which we discuss immigration policies and practices recognize and promote the dignity and value of all human beings, including those in our society with differing views and those who seek to come to this nation as migrants; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That as we recognize how the Lord is at work among us, we will continue to strive toward a just and flourishing society, evidenced by love of God and neighbor.

#### **5: ON THE LEGACY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Both men and women are created in the image of God, sharing equal value, dignity, and worth, and are commissioned by God (Genesis 1:26-28); and

WHEREAS, Scripture calls women to obey Christ's Great Commission and demonstrates women are crucial and indispensable to His mission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:17-18); and

WHEREAS, Shiphrah and Puah protected the children of God (Exodus 1:15-20), Miriam proclaimed the glory of God (Exodus 15:20-21), Rahab saved her family from certain death (Joshua 6:22-25), Deborah judged God's people (Judges 4:4-9), Jael delivered Israel (Judges 4:17-22), Hannah prayed for and dedicated her child to God (1 Samuel 1:10-11), Huldah prophesied God's judgment and mercy (2 Chronicles 34:22-28), Ruth and Naomi exemplified loyalty to God (Ruth 1:16), and Esther risked her life for the sake of the people of Israel (Esther 4:16); and

WHEREAS, Anna proclaimed the arrival of the Messiah (Luke 2:36-38), and many women, including Mary Magdalene, Mary, and Salome, followed Jesus and financially supported His earthly ministry (Mark 15:40-41), remained with Him through His crucifixion (Matthew 27:55-56), and were commissioned as the original witnesses to and proclaimers of his resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10); and

WHEREAS, Lois and Eunice cultivated a biblical legacy in the family (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15), Phoebe served the church and contributed to its mission (Romans 16:1-2), Lydia and Priscilla provided their homes for the churches' gathering (Acts 16:14-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 16:19), Priscilla supported the apostles and clarified Christian doctrine (Acts 18:18, 26), Euodia and Syntyche were gospel co-laborers (Philippians 4:2-3), Philip's daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9), and God commanded women to pass their faith through the generations (Titus 2:3-5); and

WHEREAS, Baptist women like Ann Judson, Henrietta Hall Shuck, and Charlotte H. White were among the earliest missionaries commissioned by the Triennial Convention, and Southern Baptist women like Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, and many others spent their lives propagating the gospel for future generations; and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message states that "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture" (Article VI), and that "It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations [and] to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness" (Article XI); and

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention affirmed the gifts, ministries, and value of women in the kingdom of God in our 2021 resolution "On The Dignity And Worth Of Women"; and

WHEREAS, Women today serve courageously, sacrificially, and selflessly in our Southern Baptist churches and entities, and in a multitude of contexts around the world, through praying, giving, and obeying the Great Commission of our only Lord Jesus Christ; now, therefore, be it

*(resolutions continue on next page)*

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13–14, 2023, praise God for His authoritative call to all Christian women to fulfill His Great Commission, for His providential guidance of the multitudes of women who have faithfully served our Lord Jesus throughout history, and for the Holy Spirit's continuing call to women to edify His church in a plenitude of unique, critical, and indispensable ways; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm God sovereignly granted to women their intrinsic worth, gifting, and dignity for the purpose of His own mission and glory, and that we express our gratitude to the countless women who serve among us as missionaries, writers, apologists, teachers, mentors, and leaders, both volunteer or professional, and that we celebrate their absolutely vital and too often unrecognized contributions to the expansion of His kingdom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as Southern Baptists see and honor the works that women today are doing in homes, churches, communities, workplaces, and on the global mission field to further the kingdom of God, and most importantly, we affirm that the God who sees will reward for eternity the beautiful works women do by His grace, in His name, and for His glory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage pastors to equip women in their congregations "for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we exhort all Southern Baptists to work together to commission, train, and support women to go and make disciples while serving courageously, giving sacrificially, and praying continuously, in order to effectively impart the faith to the next generation; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to cultivating an environment within the Southern Baptist Convention where women are fully respected, valued, and mobilized as co-laborers for the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission and the glory of the Triune God.

## 6: ON THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFSSIONAL HERITAGE OF THE OFFICE OF BISHOP/ELDER/PASTOR

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message that was adopted by the Southern Baptist

Convention in 1925 was identified in its preamble as the "New Hampshire Confession of Faith, revised at certain points, and with some additional articles growing out of present needs," with the preamble further stating that our confessions "constitute a consensus of opinion" and that "we do not regard them as complete statements of our faith, having any quality of finality or infallibility"; and

WHEREAS, The revision of the Baptist Faith and Message in 1963 was led by a committee who declared that it "sought to build upon the structure of the 1925 Statement" while "in no case [seeking] to delete from or to add to the basic contents of the 1925 Statement"; and

WHEREAS, The committee that revised the Baptist Faith and Message that was adopted in 2000 stated in its preamble that it "respects and celebrates the heritage of the Baptist Faith and Message, and affirms the decision of the Convention in 1925 to adopt the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, 'revised at certain points and with some additional articles growing out of certain needs . . .'" and further affirmed their respect for "the important contributions of the 1925 and 1963 editions of the Baptist Faith and Message"; and

WHEREAS, The New Hampshire Confession states that in a gospel church the "only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons" (Article XIII); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 1925 states that a church's "Scriptural officers are bishops, or elders, and deacons" (Article XII); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 1963 substitutes the word "pastors" for the words "bishops, or elders," so that it says that a church's "Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons" (Article VI); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 retains the exact language found in the 1963 version when it states that a church's "scriptural officers are pastors and deacons" (Article VI); and

WHEREAS, The New Testament uses all three titles that the Baptist Faith and Message has used to describe the one office of bishop/overseer (episkopos, Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7), elder (presbuteros, Acts 14:23, 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17, 19), and pastor (poimen, Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1–5), thus demonstrating that from its first expression in 1925 through its revisions in 1963 and 2000, the Baptist Faith and Message has affirmed that, along with deacon, the only other office in a New Testament church is that of bishop/elder/pastor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13–14, 2023, affirm that the only officers of a local church that the New Testament recognizes are that of deacon and of bishop/elder/pastor; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our confessional heritage, grounded in Scripture, and recognize that these are the only two offices appointed by Christ to serve along with all the members of a New Testament church, and we encourage our churches to uphold all the biblical qualifications that the New Testament requires for all those who would hold either office of bishop/elder/pastor or deacon.

## RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO THE 2023 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

### 7: ON CHRIST'S SOLE LORDSHIP OVER EVERY HUMAN CONSCIENCE

WHEREAS, The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God who came in human flesh, died on the cross and rose from the dead, was given all authority in heaven and on earth, is the only mediator between God and man, reigns as the only head over the church and the world, and will return personally to judge the living and the dead (Matthew 28:18; John 5:22; Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 19:11–13); and

WHEREAS, Human beings remain personally responsible (Ezekiel 18:1–4), and conversion occurs in the heart and conscience through personal conviction of sin (Acts 2:37; Romans 2:14–16; Titus 3:11), personal repentance (Acts 2:38; 8:22; 17:30), and personal faith (Romans 10:9–10), and all people shall give an account for their own actions to God before his throne of final judgment (Romans 14:10; Revelation 20:11–15); and

*(resolutions continue on next page)*

WHEREAS, The act of believer’s baptism requires personal commitment to Christ, inwardly through the “conscience” (1 Peter 3:21) exercising personal repentance and personal faith (Acts 2:38, 8:34–36, 16:30–31; Romans 10:9–10), while outwardly making personal confession (Romans 10:9–10; 1 John 1:9) and joining the church’s covenant with God (Matthew 18:18–20); and

WHEREAS, The first English Baptists rejected any extra-biblical magisterium, instead holding that the personal conscience is held captive to the Word of God alone, demanding for the first time in the English language that religion be left “free to every man’s conscience,” “for Christ only is the king, and lawgiver of the church and conscience” (Propositions and Conclusions, 1612); and

WHEREAS, Early American Baptists advocated liberty of conscience against state authority over the church, John Leland declaring, “Every man must give an account of himself to God, and therefore every man ought to be at liberty to serve God in that way that he can best reconcile it to his conscience” (Right of Conscience Inalienable, 1791); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message states that God the Son “now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord” (Article II), that “each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes” wherein “each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord” (Article VI), and that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” (Article XVII); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, affirm the unqualified, undiminished, and unshared lordship of Jesus Christ over every human conscience; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we declare that all believers, both as individuals and as churches, are obligated to obey Christ alone as Lord, recalling our Southern Baptist belief that “Christian morality is grounded upon the moral nature of God, the moral responsibility of persons, the moral quality of spiritual salvation, and the moral demands of Christ’s lordship” (“Resolution on Christian Social Concerns,” 1955); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm again the biblical, evangelical, and Baptist doctrine of the priesthood of all believers, convicted by Scripture that every believer has been called to obey both the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as Southern Baptists state unequivocally our commitment to a “free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power” (Baptist Faith and Message, Article XVII); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we decry any effort which seeks to supplant the sole lordship of Christ over consciences through confusing the separate covenants and responsibilities of the church and the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm that Christian authority may “never be exercised apart from Christ’s lordship and must be exercised only for God’s glory as revealed in the Word interpreted by the congregation led by the Holy Spirit” (“On Local Church Autonomy And Accountability,” 2019); and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our commitment to the total and absolute lordship of Jesus Christ in every area of life and seek to boldly proclaim to every person the good news that Jesus Christ is the only Savior whose Spirit invites the consciences of men and women to be renewed through faith in Him as Lord.

**8: ON OPPOSING "GENDER TRANSITIONS"**

WHEREAS, The Bible declares that God created humans in His own image as distinctly male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4); and

WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that the differences between men and women are complementary, determined at conception, immutable, rooted in God’s design, and most clearly revealed in bodily differences (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 100:3), not in self-defined and ultimately false notions of “gender identity”; and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message declares that “[t]he sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love” and that God created “male and female as the crowning work of His creation....The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God’s creation” (Article III); and

WHEREAS, God’s holy and good design for two distinct and complementary sexes is rooted in the created order, and it serves as the foundation for all societal cooperation and structures; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that the body should be honored as the temple of the Holy Spirit and affirms the unity of body and soul (1 Corinthians 6:19); and

WHEREAS, Driven by cultural change, the promotion of gender ideology, and social pressures, unprecedented numbers of adolescents and young adults are experiencing identity or body-related distress or asserting an identity at odds with their birth sex; and

WHEREAS, The number of medical interventions for purposes of “gender transition” has also risen significantly, including the use of puberty blockers, unnaturally high doses of hormones, and surgical interventions; and

WHEREAS, These so-called medical interventions are not only spiritually destructive but also render otherwise healthy children sterile for life, impairing or destroying their fertility, reproductive organs, capacity for sexual pleasure, and at times causing lifelong medical dependency as well as unknown long-term consequences; and

WHEREAS, Vulnerable children and teens are targets for psychosocial messaging and claims from the medical community that induce and even coerce their participation in escalating, increasingly harmful “transition” interventions; and

WHEREAS, The Lord has ordained government for the purpose of executing justice, praising that which is good, and punishing those who do evil (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:14); and

*(resolutions continue on next page)*

WHEREAS, Some state governments have taken action to prohibit the promotion of gender ideology and “transition” interventions for children; and

WHEREAS, Tragically, other governments and municipalities throughout the United States have taken egregious action to promote “gender transition” for children, enabling minors to bypass parental consent and obtain these life-altering procedures, often through so-called sanctuary cities that provide confidential services to out-of-state children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, condemn and oppose “gender-affirming care” and all forms of “gender transition” interventions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we oppose “gender transition” interventions as a futile quest to change one’s sex and as a direct assault on God’s created order; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we condemn corporate medical services that promote harmful and often irreversible “gender transition” experiments on vulnerable minors and young adults, exploiting them for the sake of profit; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call on legislatures to reverse any law or policy that supports “gender transition” interventions, undermines parental rights, or creates supposed sanctuary jurisdictions that facilitate these harmful interventions for minors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the legislatures who have undertaken just and praiseworthy action to protect children from “gender transition” interventions, have re-affirmed the rights of parents to direct the upbringing of their children, and have defended the free speech and conscience rights of religious believers from governmental efforts to coerce them into endorsing gender ideology; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Southern Baptists call on any members of the Southern Baptist Convention who are performing or actively supporting “gender transition” interventions to immediately repent and refrain; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we extend the love of Christ, who can save anyone who would call on His name, as well as compassionate care and tender mercy to those experiencing identity or body-related distress and/or are currently undergoing or have undergone “gender transition” interventions.

#### **9: ON APPRECIATION FOR THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**

WHEREAS, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13–14, 2023, have gathered to cooperate, fellowship, and worship together for the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, The city of Charlotte was eager and willing to host the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting yet was constrained by inadequate meeting space due to the exponential increase in annual meeting attendance in recent years; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the gracious hospitality of the city of New Orleans for accommodating this large group of messengers; and

WHEREAS, We express our debt of gratitude to our local associations, state convention, and hundreds of volunteers to make our annual gathering possible; and

WHEREAS, We especially commend the servant-like commitment and work of our Southern Baptist Convention president, officers, various committees, musicians, and other platform personnel to conduct the affairs of this convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13–14, 2023, express our profound gratitude to the Lord and to all those through whom he is working to bring about an annual meeting characterized by prayer, grace, evangelism, worship, encouragement, unity, and purpose.

#### **DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE 2023 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

1. Adoption is the Hope and Future of Children Saved From Abortion - Michael Haines, Stroud, OK  
*Declined. The Committee did not bring forward any resolutions related to abortion this year. The Convention has adopted 21 pro-life resolutions in the past 41 years. The Committee believes the Convention’s pro-life convictions are clear and unequivocal.*
2. Resolution on Corporations Funding Travel for Abortions - Johnathan Gray, Dacula, GA  
*Declined. The Committee did not bring forward any resolutions related to abortion this year. The Convention has adopted 21 pro-life resolutions in the past 41 years. The Committee believes the Convention’s pro-life convictions are clear and unequivocal.*
3. On upholding a Biblical, Pro-Children Stance - Ryan Marks, Bloomsdale, MO  
*Declined. The Committee did not bring forward any resolutions related to abortion this year. The Convention has adopted 21 pro-life resolutions in the past 41 years. The Committee believes the Convention’s pro-life convictions are clear and unequivocal.*
4. On the Benefits and Dangers of Artificial Intelligence - Keith Meyer, Salisbury, MD  
*See Resolution #3*
5. On Rejecting Pedophilia - Jared Moore, Crossville, TN  
*Declined. While the Committee deplores pedophilia and is confident this represents the consensus of Southern Baptists, this issue was addressed in the 2022 resolution “On the Imago Dei and the Helpful Content Submitted in Several Resolutions.”*

*(disposition report continues on page 13)*

**DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE 2023 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION - continued from page 12**

6. On Opposing Gender Transitions - Andrew Walker, Louisville, KY, & Denny Burk, Louisville, KY  
*See Resolution #8*
7. On Social Media - Andrew Standley, Cincinnati, OH  
*Declined. While the Committee agrees this is an important topic, the Convention has addressed social media in four different resolutions since 2016.*
8. Resolution Concerning Anti-Semitism - John Killian, Fayette, AL  
*Declined. While the Committee deplors anti-semitism, racism was addressed in the 2021 resolution "On The Sufficiency Of Scripture For Race And Racial Reconciliation"*
9. On Mass Shootings, Mental Health, Orders of Protection - Dwight McKissic, Arlington, TX  
*Declined. While the Committee agrees this is an important topic, and deeply grieves recent mass shootings, the Convention has addressed gun violence in three different resolutions since 2016. The Committee also believes that there remains a diversity of opinions regarding the most effective policy recommendations to address the issue at this time.*
10. On The Faithful Unknown Pastor - Jordan Spray, Fort Worth, TX  
*Declined. While the Committee agrees with the sentiment of the proposed resolution, and appreciates the strategic work of Southern Baptists pastors who are laboring in relative obscurity, we do not believe this topic merits a resolution this year.*
11. On the Gift of the Evangelist - Nicholas Clark, Cadiz, KY  
*Declined. While the Committee celebrates the work of vocational evangelists, we do not believe we could add to the excellent report of the Evangelism Task Force affirmed by the Convention in 2018. Therefore, we refer the messengers to that report.*
12. On The Urgency of Christian Unity - Dan Darling, Fort Worth, TX  
*Declined. While the committee agrees Christian unity is important, the Convention has addressed this topic in four resolutions since 2010.*
13. On The Importance of Revitalization and Replanting - Luke Holmes, Tishomingo, OK  
*See Resolution #1*
14. On Avoiding Religious Hypocrisy in Caring Well for Sexual Abuse Survivors - Allen Nelson, Perryville, AR  
*Declined. The Committee affirms the Convention's consensus on responding to sexual abuse, reflected in actions approved by messengers at the 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings.*
15. Resolution of Appreciation for Volunteers and Churches of Convention Presidents - Joel Young, Enterprise, AL  
*Declined. While the Committee deeply appreciates the sacrificial service of volunteers and churches of Convention presidents, we do not believe this topic merits a resolution this year.*
16. On the Use of Entity Funds in Convention Elections - Johnny Nix, Dallas, TX  
*Declined. The Committee believes this proposed resolution too closely resembles a motion.*
17. Thanking God for the Life and Ministry of Timothy Keller - Chris Garner, Knoxville, TN  
*Declined. The Committee acknowledges that many Southern Baptists have been blessed by the ministry of Tim Keller and other pastors who have died in the past year, however, we do not believe a resolution is necessary.*
18. On Maintaining a Christian Witness on Social Media - Brandon Porter, Bowling Green, KY  
*Declined. While the Committee agrees this is an important topic, the Convention has addressed social media in four different resolutions since 2016.*
19. The Office of Bishop/Elder/Pastor - Tom Ascol, Cape Coral, FL  
*See Resolution #6*
20. On the Appreciation of Southern Baptist Women - Jared Cornutt, Birmingham, AL  
*See Resolution #5*
21. On the Sacredness of the Southern Baptist Pulpit - Allen Nelson, Perryville, AR  
*Declined. While the Committee agrees that preaching is a sacred trust from God for which preachers are accountable to Him, we do not believe the Convention enjoys a consensus on the many specific burdens placed upon pastors within the text of this proposed resolution.*
22. Resolution on Women in Pastoral Ministry - Todd Stinnett, Powell, TN  
*Declined. The topic of women in pastoral ministry is addressed in Resolution #5.*
23. On the Functions, Office, and Title of Pastor with Respect to Women - Jeff Dyke, Stephenville, TX  
*Declined. The topic of women in pastoral ministry is addressed in Resolution #5.*

## ABUSE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The creation of the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force (ARITF) was mandated by the Messengers of the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention and seated by newly-elected SBC President Bart Barber. The ARITF is comprised of eight members and multiple advisors and met for the first time in September of 2022. The responsibilities given the ARITF by the Messengers can be viewed [HERE](https://www.sataskforce.net/updates/task-force-challenges-and-formal-recommendations-sn54p). (<https://www.sataskforce.net/updates/task-force-challenges-and-formal-recommendations-sn54p>) Below is the summary of the work performed between the seating of the ARITF in September of 2022 and the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention.

### **Creation of MinistryCheck Resource**

The ARITF vetted more than twenty firms to assist with the creation of the MinistryCheck website. During this process, members of the ARITF met regularly with Southern Baptist leaders, entity heads, state convention leadership and local pastors to receive input and collaboratively approach the process of creating the MinistryCheck site, including vetting multiple firms recommended by SBC leadership. The ARITF has retained a firm to build the website and is working collaboratively with SBC leadership, state conventions, local pastors, and subject matter experts to continue forming the structure, framework, protections and processes for fully implementing the MinistryCheck site. Vetting of candidates to serve as independent review experts is in process, as is the legal review and confirmation of reported criminal convictions and civil judgments. The ARITF has also worked collaboratively to design and implement a trauma-informed intake process which properly protects survivor confidentiality and safety and provide a more effective and efficient means of receiving information. Frequently asked questions related to the creation of MinistryCheck as approved by the Messengers can be seen [HERE](https://www.sataskforce.net/faqs) (<https://www.sataskforce.net/faqs>)

A prototype of the MinistryCheck resource will be available at the 2023 Annual Convention.

### **Resourcing of Credentials Committee**

ARITF members and advisors have met regularly with Credentials Committee leadership and Executive Committee staff to discuss the greatest needs of the Credentials Committee as well as how to creatively and effectively resource the Committee to perform the work it is tasked with. This includes ensuring a trauma-informed intake process and proper confidentiality protections for survivors, providing practical resources for the committee, and beginning to assist at the Committee's request with updating website content and submission processes, as well as solidifying standards and training materials. Many of these updates and measures are in process and have not been finalized or rolled out at this time, but have been proactively and collaboratively approached.

### **Resourcing churches and survivors**

ARITF members have met extensively with state leadership and local pastors in every level of the Convention, including the Great Commission Council, Executive Committee, Credentials Committee, State Convention leaders, AMS leadership, and groups of local pastors across the country. Particular emphasis has been placed on understanding the best ways to support and resource pastors or missionaries serving in rural areas, those who are bi-vocational, and those leading small congregations. Towards

that goal, ARITF members met at least 20 times with AMS leaders or representatives, and corresponding with a network supporting bi-vocational pastors. This is in addition to extensive meetings with national and state leadership as well. Based on this feedback, the following projects were undertaken:

1. Creation of "toolbox" materials to assist leaders in understanding abuse dynamics, abuse prevention, and abuse response.
2. Beginning the process of updating the Caring Well educational materials and examining most effective and helpful delivery methods.
3. Vetting individuals who may be retained as Crisis Interventionists and assist churches which reach out for help in taking the appropriate steps following the receipt of an allegation.
4. Vetting individuals who may be retained as Survivor Advocates and serve as a confidential, independent resource for survivors who choose to file a report. These individuals will serve as a confidential and independent resource for survivors to aid them in the reporting process, provide updates, assist survivors in identifying local, licensed trauma-support services and advocate for survivor well-being.

### **Connecting with State Convention Leadership**

The ARITF has met extensively with state leadership to hear concerns, discuss needs within state conventions, and work collaboratively with State Conventions to learn both best means of supporting state members, as well as learn from steps being taken at state and local associations. The ARITF has been deeply encouraged to learn of significant measures being taken in state associations, which include:

1. Providing training on abuse prevention and response to churches at no or reduced cost.
2. Hosting statewide and regional training programs.
3. Providing trauma-training to state convention staff members or leaders.
4. Addition of questions to state convention surveys to better gauge needs and preparedness of member churches.
5. Initiation of independent third-party reviews of abuse prevention and response policies with firms which are trusted in the survivor community and hold significant expertise in abuse prevention and response, working consistently within Baptist faith and polity.
6. Creating toolboxes and resource networks for churches and congregants to access.
7. Forming relationships with local and statewide victim advocates and licensed counselors who can assist in victim care.
8. Creating survivor care funds to assist survivors in receiving licensed therapy and support services.
9. Hosting forums for women where female teachers educate attendees on and open spaces to discuss the realities of domestic and sexual violence. These seminars are designed to provide women with the tools to understand their own experiences and seek needed help, as well as create safe places for women in or leaving abusive situations to disclose and receive support.

10. Retaining paid experts to assist in creation of materials and structures related to abuse prevention, crisis response and survivor care.

11. Actively engaging in legislative work to criminalize clergy sexual contact with congregants and work towards overall legal reform that is trauma-informed and justice-oriented.

12. Retention of independent, licensed, trauma-informed organizations and/or individuals to receive reports of sexual abuse or aid in survivor care consistent with Baptist faith and polity.

13. Creating new standards for state fellowship which includes updated requirements for abuse prevention, treatment of survivors and handling of allegations.

14. Restructuring the vetting and training of state convention board members to include assessments and training related to sexual assault and abuse.

As part of this process the ARITF has sought to create multiple opportunities for state leaders and ARITF members to meet in-person, share needs and progress, and mutually support and learn from the steps being taken in each association.

**Overall**

The ARITF acknowledges that much work remains and that the first steps taken, while encouraging, are only the first steps. The ARITF has sought to prioritize best standards practices and model a deep love for truth and justice, and to do so in a collaborative, unified framework wherever possible. We are grateful for the progress made, and also fully recognize that change has been far too slow to come. Our work has also served to remind us to daily grieve the repeated events which made the existence of the prior Task Force, as well as the ARITF, necessary. While significant work remains ahead, it has been a privilege to serve this year and endeavor to lay a framework for reform that will prioritize sacrificial love and care for the world around us, and the glory of our righteous God, following His command to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

**Recommendation One:** That the messengers to the 2023 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention approve the renewal of the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force (ARITF) to operate for one additional year. The ARITF will be renewable by each subsequent annual convention as needed.

Specifically, the ARITF will continue to complete the mandates set forth by the messengers at the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in 2022 related to sexual abuse reform and implementation, with specific emphasis on working collaboratively with SBC leaders and pastors to establish a more permanent structure and budget for the implementation and carrying out of reform measures.

**Rationale:** Over the course of its work, it has become clear that the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force needs additional time to finalize implementation of meaningful change in the Southern Baptist Convention in the area of sexual abuse.

**2023 TELLERS**

*The below group is included in the list of Annual Meeting roles/responsibilities discussed on page 21. \* chair*

Delores Alexander, MD  
 Jemar Bahinting, TX  
 Don Blackmore, AR  
 Mark Borchgardt, TX  
 Jessica Boudreaux, LA  
 Ben Campbell, NM  
 Kendele Daniel, TN  
 Rick Davis, AR  
 Shannon Davis, MS  
 Nick Erickson, UT  
 \*Robin Foster, AR  
 Tina Foster, AR  
 James Gardner, LA  
 Brian Givens, TX  
 David Goza, LA  
 Tim Guthrie, FL  
 Heather Hitzeroth, MO  
 Luke Holmes, OK  
 Amanda Horne, AL  
 Jarrod Horne, AL  
 Jay Jacobs, AR  
 Gina Jacobs, AR  
 Lorne James, TN  
 Casey Jones, AL

Sandra Jones, VA  
 Derek Kitterlin, LA  
 David Lorenz, TX  
 Ryan Mallen, MO  
 Megan Mallen, MO  
 Jason Moye, AL  
 Misty Moye, AL  
 Bradley Norris, NC  
 Carl Peyton, VA  
 Kristen Peyton, VA  
 RJ Platz, AR  
 Les Puryear, NC  
 Kyle Rhea, TN  
 Steven Riggins, AL  
 Rob Rudd, TX  
 Dustin Slaton, TX  
 Tommy Smith, GA  
 Ryan Smith, WV  
 Karyn Soh, TX  
 Gevan Spinney, LA  
 Kyler Walton, MO  
 Jeremy Walton, MO  
 Jim Welch, TX

**CP COOPERATIVE PROGRAM | STORIES**

Did you know your church can share Cooperative Program stories each and every week? Visit [sbc.net/cpstories](http://sbc.net/cpstories) for weekly stories and downloads telling the story of how gifts to the Cooperative Program are making a difference for Christ all around our nation and the world!

**Baptist Press**

Get the latest Southern Baptist Convention news and see how your Cooperative Program dollars are making an impact by going online to [BaptistPress.com](http://BaptistPress.com) or by following on Facebook (BaptistPress), Twitter (@BaptistPress), or Instagram (@baptistpress).

Baptist Press is the official news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Visit the website above to subscribe to daily morning and/or afternoon email newsletters.

**SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION**

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14-15, 2022, the Convention referred the following motions to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for consideration, action, and report. The disposition of each referral is noted following its description in an adherence to SBC Bylaw 26B which states, in part, as follows:

“On all matters referred by the Convention, entities shall respond in writing at the close of their report in the Book of Reports and Annual, giving specific information on:

- (1) how the matter referred was considered;
- (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and
- (3) any actions on the matter taken by the entity or action proposed to the Convention.”

**1. SBC Referral: To Amend Article III, Section 1 to Add Exclusion of Any Church That Affirms Women Pastors**

**Motion: Michael Law, Virginia**

*“That the Constitution of the Southern Baptist convention be amended to include an enumerated 6th item under Article 3, Paragraph 1, concerning composition. The enumerated 6th item would read: ‘6. Does not affirm, appoint, or employ a woman as a pastor of any kind.’”*

SBC Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention reports to the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, that the Executive Committee strongly affirms Article VI of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 which states, “While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.”

However, the Executive Committee deems that our beliefs are most appropriately stated in our adopted statement of faith rather than in our constitution and therefore opposes a suggested amendment to SBC Constitution, Article III, which would unnecessarily restate the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Article VI. The motion referred to the Executive Committee reads as follows:

**Motion: Michael Law, Virginia**

“I move that the Constitution of the Southern Baptist convention be amended to include an enumerated 6th item under Article 3, Paragraph 1, concerning composition. The enumerated 6th item would read: ‘6. Does not affirm, appoint, or employ a woman as a pastor of any kind.’”

After careful consideration, the Executive Committee responds that the request of the motion is adequately satisfied in the current language of the Convention’s constitution and adopted statement of faith as follows:

Article III. Composition

...

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the convention, and sympathetic with it purposes and work (i.e., a “cooperating church as that term is used in the Convention’s governing documents) which:

- (1) Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention’s adopted statement of faith...

...

Baptist Faith & Message 2000, Article VI. The Church

...

While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

...

While the messengers to the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting entrusted the Executive Committee with this motion, we recognize the significance of the matter, at this given time, and therefore believe it is prudent to place the referred motion before the entire body of messengers, while also expressing our opposition to the suggested amendment to SBC Constitution Article III.



## **2. SBC Referral: To Provide a Legal Opinion About the Relationship Between SBC Messengers and Appointed Trustees of Convention Entities**

### **Motion: Jerry Watts, Mississippi**

"That the Executive Committee obtain a legal opinion about the relationship between the SBC Messengers, known as the Southern Baptist Convention body, and the appointed trustees of convention entities. This includes whether the larger body can request, suggest, give permission, direction and communicate to the trustees of any of our institutions our wishes or desires; or, conversely, if we can demand by action and/or resolution, specific actions that must be taken. In other words, my motion asks, 'does this larger body control the work of trustees via by parliamentary action or if the trustee system was designed to assign all the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities to the trustees, knowing they are answerable to the 'larger body'.

Additionally, this motion asks that the legal opinion include whether the larger body's only recourse is to replace trustees who choose to not abide by the will of the larger body and/or what other remedies could or should be utilized by the larger body.

That this opinion be given to the 2023 meeting of the SBC."

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention reports to the Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, that it received as information the legal opinion regarding the relationship between Southern Baptist Convention messengers and appointed trustees of SBC entities and standing committees and that it further acknowledges the process and procedure for messengers to follow, if or when they are dissatisfied with the actions or decisions of appointed trustees or standing committee volunteers, as outlined in the Southern Baptist Convention governing documents.

## **3. SBC Referral: To Evaluate the Organizational Structure of the SBC Executive Committee**

### **Motion: Scott Smith, Indiana**

*"That the trustees of the Executive Committee of the SBC study and examine the internal measures of accountability of all paid Executive Committee staff to said trustees for their day-to-day actions relating to the Convention. Subsequently, I request that the trustees of the EC make any needed policy or structural changes that they can and that are within their purview or if necessary, bring any recommended changes in either how said staff operates or is structured before the convention at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2023."*

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention reports to the Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, that because the SBC Executive Committee is held to the measure of accountability and proper procedures detailed in the governing documents, including the Business and Financial Plan, which provides guidelines for the annual auditing process; and because the SBC Executive Committee president alone reports directly to the board of trustees and all other Executive Committee employees report to the president, in keeping with EC Bylaw 5.1; and because Personnel Policies of the Executive Committee, which outlines standards of acceptable conduct for Executive Committee employees was recently revised, in conjunction with the Officers of the Board, in keeping with EC Bylaw 6.2.3.e, it declines to recommend an additional study of the internal measures of accountability.

## **4. SBC Referral: To Provide a Legal Update on the Effect of Waiving Attorney Client Privilege**

### **Motion: Sherri Martin, Florida**

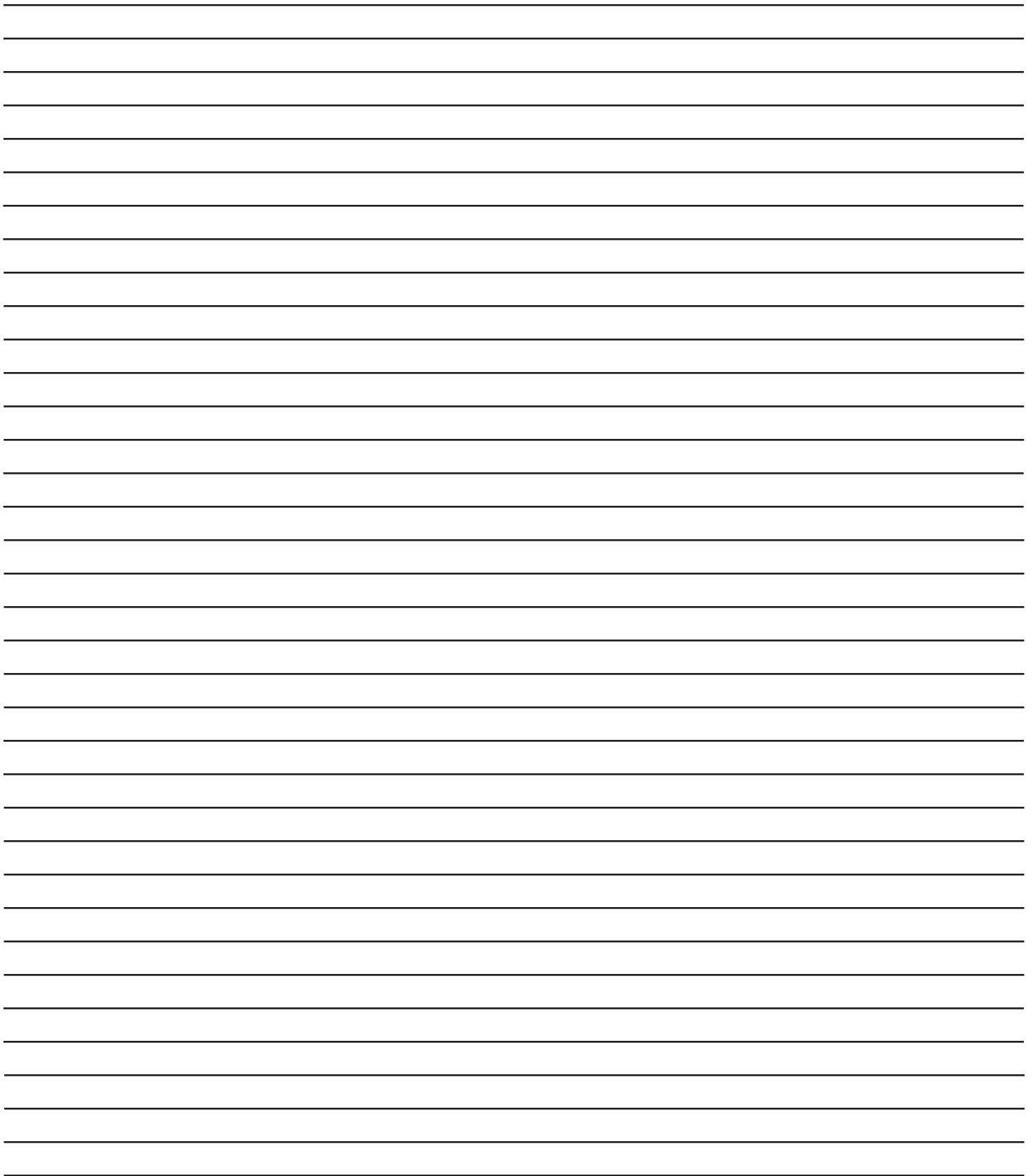
"That the Executive Committee provide a legal update on the effect of waiving attorney client privilege and the impact on the SBC and that the update be provided no later than 30 days prior to the 2023 SBC Meeting of the SBC."

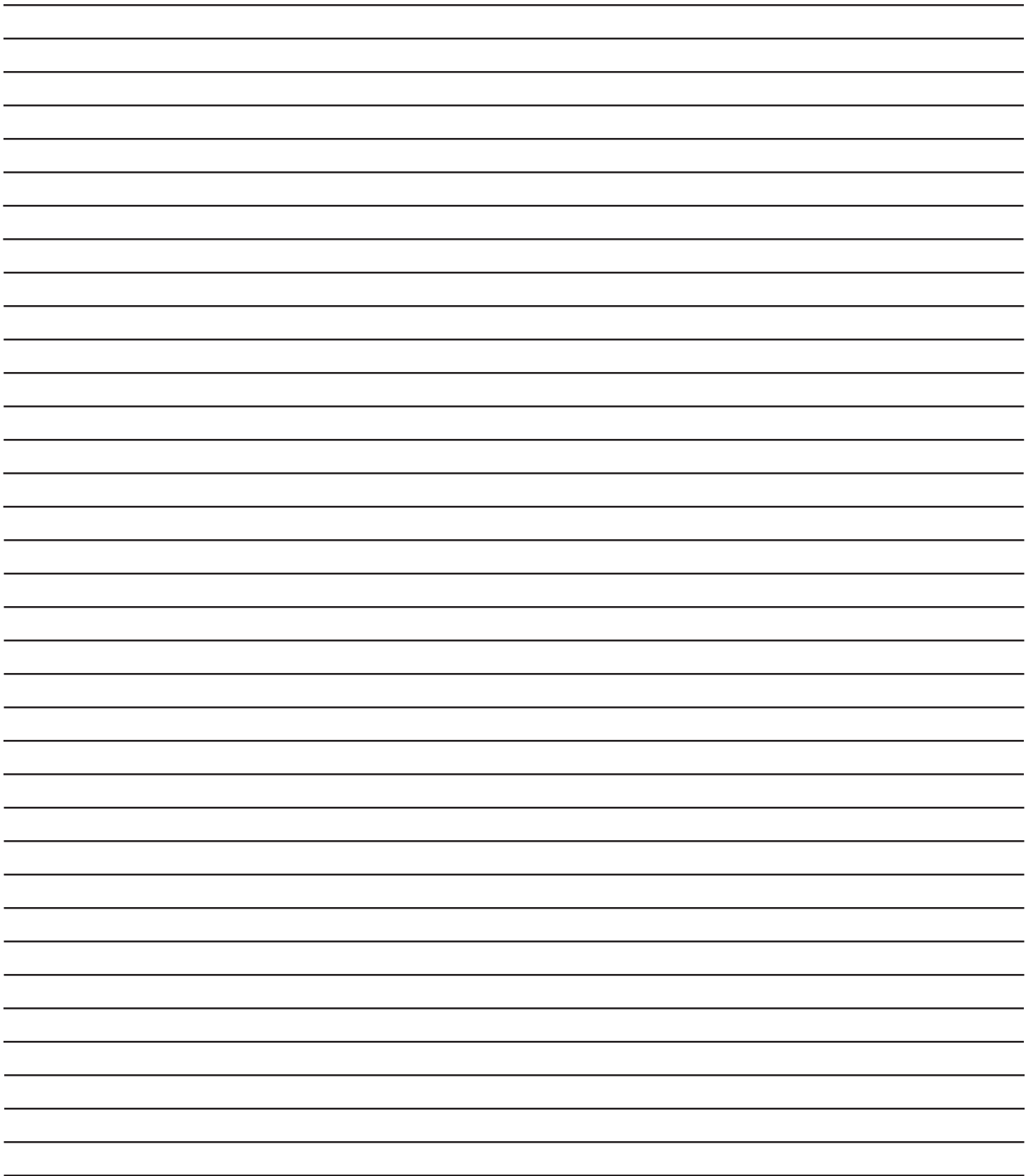
SBC Executive Committee Action: That the SBC Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention report to the Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, that it received as information the legal opinion regarding the effect of waiving attorney client privilege and the impact on the SBC. A summary of the legal opinion is provided as follows:

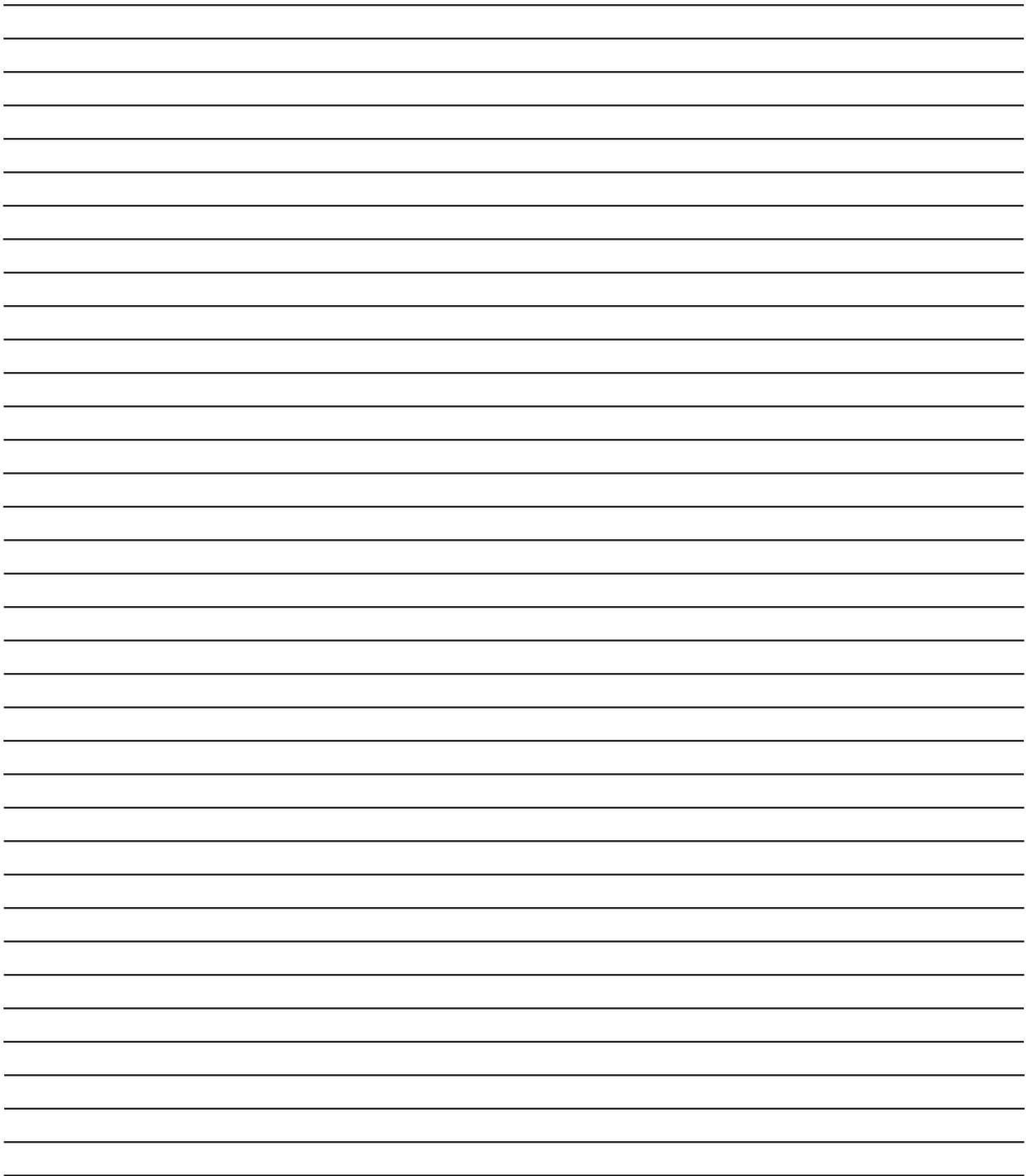
The legal effect and impact on the Southern Baptist Convention of the Executive Committee's waiver of the Attorney client privilege is an open matter that cannot be easily assessed at this point in time, for several reasons.

1. The ultimate outcome of ongoing lawsuits is unknown at the present time, and therefore the impact of the waiver of the attorney client privilege on those lawsuits is also unknown at the present time.
2. The SBC's and EC's insurance carriers have continued to provide legal defense against claims, but the insurance carriers have reserved the right to deny coverage, including in the payment of any potential damage awards, based upon the waiver of attorney client privilege.
3. The United States Department of Justice is currently investigating the Southern Baptist Convention. The ultimate outcome of that investigation is unknown at the present time.

At the present time, with all of the currently pending legal matters, there is no way to provide a more detailed update on the impact of the waiver on the Southern Baptist Convention.









## GENERAL INFORMATION

### INFORMATION CENTER

If you have questions concerning the SBC Annual Meeting or the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, visit one of the Information Centers located in the lobbies of Halls B & E of the Convention Center. Lost and found, as well as emergency messages (which will be projected on the screens with the name of persons affected), can be found in the Convention Office (Room 217) or by calling (615) 782-8612.

### SAFETY & SECURITY

The SBC Annual Meeting is a private religious gathering. The Southern Baptist Convention reserves the right to limit attendance to SBC messengers and invited guests and will take legal recourse against disruptive persons.

Personal safety of those attending the Annual Meeting has been a high priority in the planning process. Please be alert and report any suspicious activity to the nearest security officer, Convention usher, or by contacting the Convention Office in Room 217 or at (615) 782-8612.

Please do not leave packages unattended in the Convention Center at any time. Unattended packages will be confiscated by security personnel and may be subject to damage or destruction during examination. If you notice unattended packages, please inform those listed above.

### MEETING PUBLICATIONS

**Book of Reports** – Contains the annual reports of committees and entities of the Convention as well as any recommendations that may require a vote.

*\*Physical copies provided to messengers only; available electronically on the mobile app*

**Bulletin** – Contains recommendations not available at the time the Book of Reports was printed, announcements of business, times and places of special meetings, and other items of vital interest; published daily on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the Annual Meeting and placed at major entry areas of the convention hall each morning.

*\*Delivery of the Bulletin is made by the printer prior to the morning sessions; available electronically on the mobile app*

**Annual** – Available in the fall of this year; contains the contents of the Book of Reports and Annual Meeting proceedings, as well as more detailed information on SBC entities, committees, and organizations. Paperback copies can be ordered, while supplies last, by contacting [annual@sbc.net](mailto:annual@sbc.net). The SBC Annual can also be viewed and downloaded at [sbc.net](http://sbc.net). Previous years' Annuals can be found at [sbhla.org/digital-resources/sbc-annuals](http://sbhla.org/digital-resources/sbc-annuals).

### PRESS/MEDIA INFORMATION

Members of the media must be credentialed through the SBC Press Room, located in Room 222. Media credentials must be visible at all times. Messengers operating as media members, including bloggers and social media influencers, are also required to apply for official media credentials.

Members of the working press are required to abide by ground rules designed to ensure messengers and invited guests maintain their right to privacy. Credentialed videographers and photographers are permitted to work in the Convention Center within pre-approved, authorized areas. Film crews for non-profit ministries or advocacy groups are only allowed to conduct their business outside of the Convention Center and Convention hotel. Outside interest groups are not permitted to distribute material nor engage messengers for interviews inside the Convention Center or Convention hotel.

Messengers or invited guests who grant interviews are responsible for their own actions and statements.

Should any messenger or invited guest deem any media activity unacceptable, a report identifying the offending party should be made to the Convention press representative at (615) 782-8611. Should any individual representing an outside interest group prove disruptive or in violation of this policy, a report identifying the offending party should be made to the Convention office at (615) 782-8612.

### REGARDING HANDOUTS

All handouts must be pre-approved by the Convention Manager. Messengers, guests, and/or exhibitors are prohibited from soliciting or handing out materials except in designated exhibit hall booth spaces. For questions or concerns, contact the Convention Office in Room 217 or at (615) 782-8612.

### LIVE STREAM AND LANGUAGE OPTIONS

All SBC Annual Meeting sessions will be livestreamed on the ACTS2 App. You can learn more about ACTS2 and download the app at [acts2tv.com](http://acts2tv.com). ACTS2 will also offer a captioning service for the livestream. Simply choose the Open Captions stream inside the app to view the stream with captions.

En la reunión de New Orleans en el Centro de Convenciones, tendremos traducción simultánea a español para los asistentes que lo desean. Estos podrán conectarse a la red de Wi-Fi SBCespanol y escuchar la traducción de la sesión administrativa al bajar la aplicación WaveCAST Receiver.

Al abrir esta aplicación y al conectarse con la red de Wi-Fi SBCespanol, la aplicación reconocerá la onda de traducción y los asistentes podrán escuchar en español la sesión utilizando sus propios auriculares.

## MESSENGER INFORMATION

### TO MAKE A MOTION

1. **Write your motion legibly.** (If the motion is spontaneous and you do not have time to write it before presenting it to the Convention at a microphone, write the motion, as you stated it, before leaving the microphone area). Motion can also be pre-filed/filed digitally (see "Pre-filing Motions").
2. **Go to a floor microphone at a time when motions are being considered.**
3. **Notify the Page at the microphone of your desire to make a motion.**
4. **When your microphone is recognized by the presiding officer, state your name, the name and location of your church, and read your motion.** Do not argue the merits of your motion at this time. If the motion later comes before the body for discussion, you will then be given the first opportunity to speak.
5. **Provide a copy of your motion to the Recording Secretary.** You can submit electronically through the SBC Annual Meeting app or by email to [recordingsecretary@sbc.net](mailto:recordingsecretary@sbc.net), or give a typed or legibly handwritten copy on standard paper to the Page at the microphone. The Page will take the copy of your motion to the platform so the motion may be entered into the record.
6. The Committee on Order of Business will consider all presented motions and announce further action(s) to be taken, either later in the session or in a following session.

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### TO SPEAK FROM THE FLOOR

1. Be at a microphone at the proper time, and make sure your desire to speak is properly characterized and input to the touch screen below the microphone at which you are standing.
2. Proceed to input your desire to speak. Do not wait for the presider to ask for input from the floor. If you are recognized for another issue, tell the chair which issue you are there to speak to, and the presider will return to you when your issue comes to the floor.  
  
The chair could use several phrases to welcome comment from the floor on any issue. If you have not entered a desire to speak on the touch screen immediately at that time (or slightly before), you will not be recognized.
3. When recognized by the chair, state your name, the fact that you are a messenger, the name and location of your church, and then voice your position and reasoning.

#### **Bylaws Relating to Speaking from the Floor**

SBC Bylaw 1C – A messenger may speak in debate for longer than three minutes only with the permission of the Convention granted by a two-thirds vote.

SBC Bylaw 1D – A messenger may introduce a second motion during a business session only if no other messenger is seeking the floor who has not made a motion during that session.

### HELPFUL TERMINOLOGY

**MOTION** - A motion calls for specific action by the Southern Baptist Convention or requests specific action by one or more of its entities. A motion normally begins with "I move that..." For more information, see "To Make a Motion."

**POINT OF ORDER** - A point of order calls the attention of the chair to a violation of the Convention's rules and should only be raised when a messenger has good reason to believe that the chair has failed to notice and correct a breach of the rules that prevents the proper transaction of business. Because a point of order interrupts pending business, it should not be raised merely to point out minor irregularities, to debate an issue, or as a method of obstructing business or harassing the chair.

**PLATFORM PERSONNEL AND COMMITTEES** - Information concerning duties of platform personnel and committees can be found on page 21.

**RESOLUTION** - A resolution has traditionally been defined as an expression of opinion or concern, as compared to a motion, which calls for action. A resolution is not used to direct an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention to specific action other than to communicate the opinion or concern expressed. Resolutions are decided upon at the discretion of the Committee on Resolutions and can be submitted by individuals from qualified churches 45 days prior to the annual meeting, but no later than 15 days prior. See SBC Bylaw 20 for other requirements concerning resolutions and the Committee on Resolutions.

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### PRE-FILING MOTIONS

You can make an important contribution to the accurate recording of our business proceedings by submitting motions or amendments electronically through the SBC Annual Meeting app or by email to [recordingsecretary@sbc.net](mailto:recordingsecretary@sbc.net), or give a typed or legibly handwritten copy on standard paper to a Page at a microphone who will then deliver to the recording secretary. For any submission, please include your name, church, and phone number.

Pre-filing does not guarantee consideration, as you are still required to go to a microphone and be recognized at the appropriate time, only then will it be entered into the official record. Pre-filing is simply a way to help with the official record and the efficiency of our work together.

OTHER ANNUAL MEETING-RELATED INFORMATION

SPECIAL SEATING

There is reserved seating located in the Convention Hall for those with disabilities, parents with strollers, and those hard of hearing. To locate how to get to these designated sections, please see an usher.

FOOD OPTIONS



There are multiple concessions inside the Convention Center as well as many restaurants within walking distance of the Convention Center. In addition to the food courts located in the Convention Center, there is a foodcourt in the Riverwalk Outlet Mall at the north end of the Convention Center.

A restaurant listing can be found by visiting the New Orleans & Company information desk in the lobby.

ANNUAL MEETING HASHTAG

#SBC23

Use the official SBC Annual Meeting hashtag on your social media messages and photos concerning the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting and stay connected with everything that is happening.

FOR THE KIDS

Registration for the preschool, children, and youth programs took place earlier in the spring, prior to the Annual Meeting. In order to ensure the proper worker-to-child ratios, no on-site registrations will be accepted.

Each year, we are able to offer the programs during Annual Meeting week for registered children and youth. This year, drop-off and pick-up will happen on Level 3 of the Convention Center.

\*A nursing mothers' room is also available for mothers whose babies aren't registered in childcare. Visit the Preschool check-in area (Level 3) for directions. Additionally, there is a nursing mothers' room on Level 1 near the Hall B entrance. Ask the Information Desk or an usher for directions.

SPECIAL THANKS

We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- The Local Encouragement Team and Louisiana volunteers for their hard work, extensive planning, and assistance with greeters, ushers, and translation services.
Lifeway Media for staging, lighting, and sound production.
Quint and Jay Adkins for planning and coordinating live music throughout the Convention Center.

PRAYER PROMPT FOR THIS WEEK

Colossians 3:12-17 (CSB): "Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"

Lead us today Father. Help us work together for your will and glory, so that the world may hear and believe in your Son!

PRAYER REQUEST CARD

Write your prayer request in the space below.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_