

Resolutions Committee Report

I. WHEREAS, the Executive Office has successfully planned and provided another encouraging national convention; and

WHEREAS, all our national departments have enlightened us with their respective reports; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Association and its State Office Coordinator Ron Helms, moderator; Gene Norris, promotional secretary; their staff; and volunteers, have generously hosted this 2015 convention:

BE IT RESOLVED, that this body show its appreciation by a rising vote of thanks.

II. WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared that the States may not deprive same-sex couples the fundamental right to marriage and must recognize lawful same-sex marriages in other States; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Free Will Baptists continue to denounce homosexuality and adultery as sinful, unchristian, and already condemned by God in His Word; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Free Will Baptists continue to believe in a Biblical definition of marriage that "Both Scripture and nature as designed by God affirm the life-long, covenantal union of one man, being male as created by God, and one woman, being female as created by God, in a one-flesh relationship;" and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants citizens the freedom to voice support of or opposition to issues that concern us, whether they be issues of law, morality, societal, educational or economic; and

WHEREAS, our sense of moral obligation and evangelistic responsibility forbids us to remain silent on issues so paramount, so eminently threatening to the moral fabric of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Free Will Baptists recognize that we all struggle with sin; be it therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE DELEGATES TO THE National Association of Free Will Baptists, convening in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 19-22, 2015, reaffirm the biblical definition of marriage as occurring only between one man and one woman, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we declare marriage to be sacred and between one who is born male and one who is born female, that we adamantly oppose any redefinition of marriage, the sanction of marriage counterfeits, such as civil unions, or the legalization of same-sex marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we wholly support the time-proven institution of traditional marriage as the single best arrangement for raising children and forming citizens as opposed to the radical and unacceptable alternative of same-sex marriage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to pray for and support legislative and legal efforts to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to our nation's President and members of Congress, either by regular or electronic mail; and be it further

RESOLVED, that local Free Will Baptist churches be strongly encouraged to adopt a policy statement about marriage and human sexuality that will serve both to express forthrightly the church's position on the issues and to protect the church and its ministerial staff in the event of potential legal challenges; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all the bodies in the Free Will Baptist denomination that play a role in the examination, licensing, and ordination of ministers be urged to include instruction and careful questioning on the issues involved in homosexuality and same-sex unions as part of the process to ensure that only those candidates who are in complete agreement with the Appendix to Chapter IV, Section 1, of the *Free Will Baptist Treatise*, as adopted in July, 2008, are licensed or ordained to preach, and so to perform marriages, as Free Will Baptist clergy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that regardless of how our motives are demonized, we reaffirm our commitment to pray for and evangelize those who are enslaved in the homosexual culture, expressing our mission: that all people be saved by faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, and teaching them to separate from the immorality of this present world and its coming judgment, and that our churches will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin, seeking to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them toward Christ's power to forgive and heal.

Resolution Committee:

Steve Trail, (AL), Chairman

Brian Williams (NY)

Allen West (MI)

Eddie Moody (NC)

Jackson Watts (MO)