

## **The Bicentennial Year**

WHEREAS the year, 1976, will be the 200th year since the Declaration of Independence asserted the colonies to be free from their mother country, England; and

WHEREAS this act was the forerunner to the creation of our beloved country, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS this bicentennial year is being fittingly celebrated nationwide;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, gathered in Annual Conference at Winona Lake, Indiana, June 23–27, 1975, express our deep thanksgiving to God for His providence in the creation and sustenance of these United States of America, and for allowing us the privilege of being its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while grieving over the sins and failures which have sometimes characterized our nation, we nevertheless rejoice in the great things which she has been enabled under God to accomplish, and that we support the worthy principles of government set forth in her founding documents, particularly in the Constitution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call attention in a special way during the bicentennial year to the significant role that colonial Baptists played in the development of the Constitution, particularly the guarantee of the separation of church and state.

*Winona Lake, Indiana,  
June 23–27, 1975*