

Preserving Our Baptist Heritage

WHEREAS the current research in the field of "Church Growth" indicates that a growing percentage of church attenders are no longer committed to maintaining any denominational affiliation; and

WHEREAS many churches in a sincere attempt to attract attenders are downplaying any denominational affiliation; and

WHEREAS there is a pervasive spirit within our society that is existential and pragmatic in philosophy, causing choices to be based increasingly on what works for the present;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 64th Annual Conference in Toledo, Ohio, on June 24-28, 1995, reaffirm our commitment to the distinctives that make us uniquely Baptist:

Biblical authority

Autonomy of the local church

Priesthood of believers

Two ordinances: baptism (immersion) of believers and the Lord's table

Individual soul liberty

Saved church membership

Two offices: pastor and deacon

Separation of church and state

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in our churches, publications, and approved agencies, as well as our homes, we reaffirm our determination to perpetuate our Baptist heritage with the belief that these distinctives address with relevance the issues facing contemporary society and the church; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we recognize the importance of maintaining a clear understanding of our history and roots so that we will not lose our identity as we labor in the present and plan for the future. "Stand. . .in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk [in it]" (Jeremiah 6:16).

Toledo, Ohio

June 24-28, 1995

