

Autonomy and Independence of the Local Church

WHEREAS there has become evident in these days an increasing centralization of organization and authority among Baptists; and

WHEREAS the autonomy and independence of the local church is a Scriptural doctrine; and

WHEREAS this Scriptural teaching has been maintained through the years as the very genius of our Baptist testimony; and

WHEREAS we see this teaching being denied in both the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention through the usurpation of authority and the centralization of power in the hands of a few; and

WHEREAS this tendency has been largely unobserved and unopposed by a majority of Baptist churches across the land, we call upon Baptists everywhere to resist this violation of this New Testament truth and practice.

We desire once again to affirm that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches continues to maintain as one of its basic tenets this principle of the autonomy and independence of the local church and that we repudiate as un-baptistic and un-Scriptural the contrary tendency.

*June 25-29, 1956
Seattle, Washington*