



## **RESOLUTION ON DEFENDING TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE**

*Submitted by Gerald Harris, Messenger from Ephesus Baptist Church, Villa Rica, GA*

**WHEREAS**, Georgia Baptists have faithfully maintained a biblical stance on the issues of “marriage equality” and the primacy of traditional marriage in society; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that marriage is both a covenant relationship and an institution established by God, rather than simply a human social construct, (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5: 22-33); and

**WHEREAS**, equating same-sex marriage with natural marriage creates a host of domestic and religious liberty issues, and

**WHEREAS**, Georgia Baptists embrace the biblical definition of marriage as the exclusive life-long union of one man and one woman; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgia Baptists embrace the biblical mandate to faithfully honor God’s creative design for the family while graciously seeking the repentance of those who violate it; and

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Supreme Court recently declined to speak clearly on the issue of same-sex marriage, and has elsewhere supported a state’s right to define marriage for itself; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Georgia spoke clearly in 2004 when 76 percent of the people voted for an amendment to the Georgia Constitution that makes it unconstitutional for the state to recognize or perform same sex marriages or civil unions; and

**WHEREAS**, the messengers to the 1998 Georgia Baptist Convention approved a constitutional change stating that “a cooperating church does not include (one) which knowingly takes, or has taken, any action to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior.”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we encourage Christians to be informed concerning the political life of our state and nation, so as to protect religious freedoms guaranteed in our constitution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we express appreciation to Georgia Attorney General, Sam Olens, and encourage him to continue to take the necessary measures to vigorously defend legal challenges to the Georgia marriage amendment; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that despite our opposition to same-sex marriage on convictional grounds, Georgia Baptists express Christian love and concern for those who struggle with same sex attraction, or any other sexual activity outside the bounds of God’s creative design, acknowledging that every person is of eternal value to our Creator who desperately needs the redemption Jesus has provided through His death, burial and resurrection.