



# Georgia Baptist Mission Board

## **RESOLUTION ON PERSONHOOD AND THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

*Submitted by Mike Stone, Messenger from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Blackshear, GA*

**WHEREAS**, the Bible affirms the personhood, sanctity, dignity and value of every human being from the moment of our individual creation, as evidenced by the fact that we are created in the image of God and are known by God while being formed in the womb (Genesis 1:26-27, James 3:9, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:13-15,35,36); and

**WHEREAS**, God alone is the Creator and Giver of life and the one distinguishing feature between humanity and the rest of creation is that God created human beings in HIS image and likeness (Job 10:8-12, 12:10, 31:15, 33:4; 1 Samuel 2:6, Psalm 100:3, 139:13-16, Isaiah 64:8, Colossians 1:16); and

**WHEREAS**, members of the human family originate ultimately from the laws of nature and of nature's God, who created human life in His image and protected it with the commandment: "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13); and

**WHEREAS**, all innocent human life must be respected and protected regardless of race, sex, age or condition of dependency and regardless of manner of conception or creation, and are persons of equal and immeasurable worth and of inviolable dignity (2 Kings 24: 3,4, Psalm 106:37-39, 1 Corinthians 10:20); and

**WHEREAS**, they must be recognized and treated in a manner commensurate with this moral status (Leviticus 18:21, 30); and

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Independence, states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and that governments are instituted in order to secure these rights (Romans 13:1-7), and

**WHEREAS**, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law" (Micah 6:7,8); and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Baptist Convention believes that the Scriptures are totally true, trustworthy, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried (Psalm 19:7-10, 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12); and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Baptist Convention has a long Biblical tradition of strong support for traditional family values including the right to life for all persons in Georgia from fertilization to natural death;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Georgia Baptist Convention will work to assist the Church as it seeks to affirm the personhood of every human being; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Georgia Baptist Convention expresses its support for a personhood amendment to the Georgia Constitution which would specify that the protections guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution apply to preborn children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Georgia Baptist pastors and churches be encouraged to emphasize the Scriptural principles of this resolution as part of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 18, 2015; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the messengers to the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting in Macon, Georgia on November 10-11, 2014 encourage all believers to pray that God will continue changing the hearts and minds of Americans on the issue of the sanctity of human life and the personhood of all individuals, both born and preborn; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.