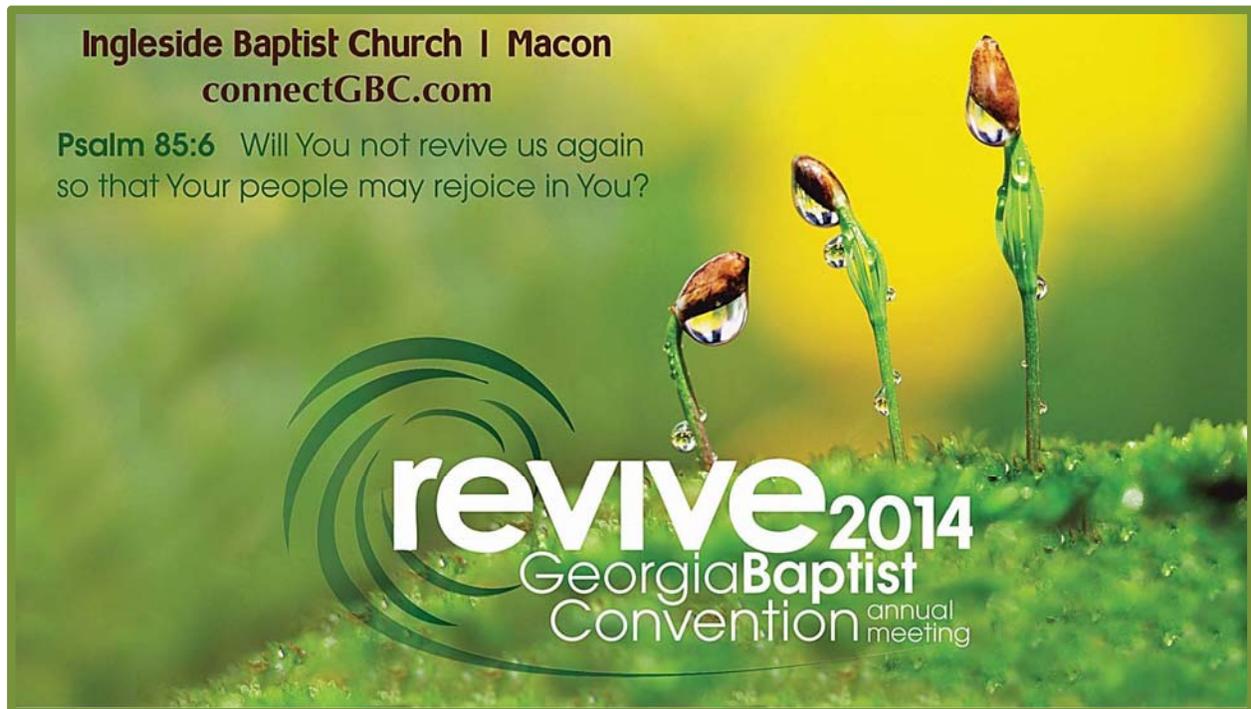


2014 ANNUAL REPORT GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Psalm 85:6 Will You not revive us again
so that Your people may rejoice in You?



SECTION II PROCEEDINGS OF 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

PROCEEDINGS

2014 GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION 193RD ANNUAL MEETING INGLESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, MACON



MONDAY EVENING SESSION NOVEMBER 10, 2014

The 193rd session of the Georgia Baptist Convention was called to order with prayer by **President Don Hattaway** at Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon on Monday evening, November 10, 2014. Jon Duncan, state missionary and Coordinator of Convention Music, led the congregation in singing and special music was provided by Irish singer/songwriters, recording artists, and hymn composers, Keith and Kristyn Getty, of Nashville, Tennessee.

Vice Presidents serving the 193rd session were **Stephen Fountain**, First Baptist Church, Buford; **Eric Rentz**, First Baptist Church, Ludowici; and **Tim Jones**, Britt David Baptist Church, Columbus. Vice President David Chauncey, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta was unable to attend.

President Hattaway recognized Jon Duncan, Coordinator of Convention Music; David Carnes, worship pastor, Briarlake Baptist Church, serving as the organist and Becky Lombard, Professor of Music and Fine Arts, Truett-McConnell College, serving as the organist for the sessions. He welcomed The Gettys as special music guests.

Recording Secretary, Danny Henson, New Liberty Baptist Church, Ringgold, provided a report of the **Enrollment and Organization**. He moved that the 828 messengers already registered, plus all others registered at the Convention would constitute the 193rd session of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The motion was seconded and **was adopted**. **Freddie Rhodes**, Westview Baptist Church, Hawkinsville and **Tom Vann**, Rentz Baptist Church, Rentz, served as **Assistant Recording Secretaries**.

Danny Henson recognized the following **Acteens and Challengers who served as Pages**: Jennifer Mullally, Shirley Hills Baptist Church, Warner Robins; Lucie Weatherall, Shirley Hills Baptist Church, Warner Robins; Glen Cloud, Pine Park Baptist Church, Cairo; Aaron Jones, New Providence Baptist Church, Smarr; Gunner Robinson, Musella Baptist Church, Musella; and Browning Sandusky, New Providence Baptist Church, Smarr.

Matt Brady, Pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Claxton and chairman of the **2014 Order of Business Committee**, presented the Program Provisional for adoption and **it was approved**.

The following persons served as **Tellers** for the 193rd session of the Georgia Baptist Convention: Edwin Avery, Jerry Cross, Lee Graham, Calvin Halcomb, Freddy Hogg, Brad Hughes, Jimmy Hutto, Jay Moore, Keith Powell, Randy Ray, Rodger Whorton, and Jeffery Wyatt.

Tim McCoy, pastor, Ingleside Baptist Church, shared greetings and welcomed messengers to the campus. He said that the Convention has met in Macon 26 times and he and his congregation are delighted to have this first meeting of the Convention at Ingleside.

Garry Goodin, Mid-State Associational Missionary, welcomed messengers on behalf of the slightly more than 50 churches in the four counties of the association.

Claude King, Discipleship & Church Health Specialist, LifeWay, Nashville, Tennessee, reminded messengers that revival broke out in 1827 -1828 among Georgia Baptists when Adele Sherwood was pastor of Eatonton Baptist Church where a group of eight ladies had been meeting for prayer for revival. He said that over the next few months, revival services resulted in the baptism of over 100 people and was followed by a gathering of over 4,000 people at the annual meeting of the Okmulgee Association to hear Adele Sherwood preach. He added that this group began to pray for the lostness in Georgia and over the next two years, Sherwood preached 333 messages across the state, revival spread among other denominations, and the number of Georgia Baptists doubled. He shared that in Sandtown, Georgia, it was said that every person of an accountable age came to faith in Jesus Christ and the name of the town was changed to Newborn, Georgia. He asked messengers to gather in groups to pray for revival in Georgia and led in prayer for the witness of Georgia Baptists to be empowered.

Jeff Robinson, Senior Relationship Manager, GuideStone Financial Services, shared greetings on behalf of O. S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone. He reported that GuideStone is the largest Christian mutual fund family with management of just over \$13 billion. He announced that investment opportunities are now available to church members and like-minded investors. He reported that the Mission Dignity program has received record funds this year. He added that this program is 100% donor supported and thanked Georgia Baptists for their gifts that benefit over 130 recipients in Georgia and others across the Southern Baptist Convention. He shared that all sales proceeds for Dr. Hawkins' two new books go to support Mission Dignity.

Steve Davis, Regional Vice President, North American Mission Board, shared a video message from Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board. He expressed appreciation to Dr. White and Georgia Baptists for their participation and generosity by providing over 21,800 backpacks for Appalachia last year. He and Bill Barker, mobilization missionary in Appalachia, presented Dr. White a print by an Appalachian artist as an expression of appreciation. Dr. White shared that it was the vision of the 2013 Convention President, John Waters, for the backpack project that resulted in the wonderful response by Georgia Baptists. Dr. White expressed appreciation to Steve Davis, Bill Barker for their leadership and ministry and to Georgia Baptists for their generosity expressed through the backpacks.

Rick Stevens, manager of the LifeWay Christian Resources store in Buford, Georgia brought greetings on behalf of Lifeway, and LifeWay President Thom Rainer. He reminded messengers that LifeWay considers it a privilege to be a supplier of Georgia Baptist churches for Christian materials and resources to support training, Sunday School ministry, and other materials to change lives. He presented a gift to President Hattaway in appreciation of his ministry and leadership.

There was no **Miscellaneous Business**.

First Vice President Stephen Fountain welcomed **Keith and Kristyn Getty**, to provide special music and lead messengers in a time of worship through music.

Vice President Stephen Fountain introduced **Convention President Don Hattaway** for the President's Message and led messengers in prayer.

President Hattaway shared passages from Nehemiah 8, 9, and 10, and focused his message upon spiritual renewal. He said that a new car owner receives an owner's manual with instructions on how to take care of the car through routine service and if the owner ignores the instructions, the car will experience a breakdown. He suggested that God gave us an owner's manual - the Bible, and regular appointments with God are necessary to prevent a spiritual breakdown. He said that after a breakdown in the relationship between God and His people, God gave Nehemiah the vision to rebuild the walls of the temple and he did it in 52 days. He suggested that we too can experience a spiritual renewal and the greatest need of Georgia Baptists is to have a new touch of God that will result in their being changed from within.

He suggested the first thing Georgia Baptists need for spiritual renewal is a communication of God's Word. He said that in these chapters of Nehemiah, the people experienced revival when they showed great appreciation for God's Word, applied God's Word, explained God's Word, and responded to God's Word. President Hattaway said that we cannot hide our spiritual condition from God and we need to become broken before Him, not hiding anything from God, and confess all our sins before we can experience spiritual renewal. He added that in these chapters, we see the response of the people to God's Word as they confessed their sin and He returned joy to their hearts. He suggested that if we confess our sin to God, He will raise us up and return joy to our hearts. He said that the people in Nehemiah showed how serious they were because they made a covenant with God that they would separate themselves from their ungodly culture and obey the Word of God and added that we need to make a covenant with God indicating how serious we are about our relationship with Him. He said that we cannot reach the people of our ungodly culture unless we look like Jesus and appear distinctively different from those who do not know Him, as we are to be in the world but not to embrace the world. He pointed out that the covenant of God's people in the day of Nehemiah included a promise to financially support the house of God with tithes and offerings. He suggested that the spiritual condition of God's people is indicated by their faithfulness in giving to God's business. He said that during the Great Depression, the percentage of per capita giving was around 3% and today is under 2%. He said that we are not spiritually where we should be and when we get right spiritually we will have no problem with our giving. President Hattaway challenged Georgia Baptists to come before God in confession, make a new covenant with God, and walk with Jesus, not just work with Jesus.

Keith and Kristyn Getty provided **special music** followed by a video report about the work of the **Public Affairs Committee and Christian Life Commission** featuring Mike Griffin, Convention Public Affairs Representative and pastor, Liberty Baptist Church, Hartwell.

President Hattaway recognized **past presidents** of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Those attending who introduced themselves and their attending spouses included the following: Trudy and Nelson Price, (years elected) 1982 - 1983; Larry Wynn, 1992 - 1993; John Yarbrough, 1994 - 1995; Mary and Frank Cox, 1996 - 1997; Martha Jean and Gerald Harris, 1998; Beth and Wayne Robertson, 2001 - 2002; Micah Hamrick and Joan Hamrick, represented their father and husband, Wayne Hamrick, 2005 - 2006; Bucky Kennedy, 2007 - 2008; and Cynthia and John Waters, 2011 - 2012. Messengers expressed appreciation to those who have previously served as president of the Convention.

During the report from the **Georgia Baptist Convention Foundation**, messengers viewed a video featuring the ministry of the Foundation and Pete Rockett who has served as president

and CEO of the Foundation for 25 years during which the corpus expanded from \$81 million to about \$385 million. Executive Director J. Robert White presented a plaque in recognition of his service and his upcoming retirement on December 31, 2014, and presented red roses to his wife Pamela. Mr. Rockett acknowledged the guidance of Jesus Christ throughout his ministry and expressed appreciation to Dr. White and former Executive Director James N. Griffith for the structure that has allowed the Foundation to flourish. Mr. Rockett introduced Johnathan Gray as his successor who will provide future leadership for the ministry of the Foundation.

Associational Missionary, **Wayne Jenkins**, Western Baptist Association, read **Scripture** from John 14: 12-13 and **prayed** in preparation for the Missionary Sermon. **Keith and Kristyn Getty** led in **Congregational Praise** and provided **special music**.

Director of Missions, **Ken Cloud**, of the Bowen Baptist Association, began the **Missionary Sermon** by asking messengers to consider that Jesus said that those who believe in Him will do greater works than He has done. He asked how this might be true and reminded messengers that Jesus went to Calvary for us all and brought healing, light, and hope to the world. He suggested that no one can do better than Jesus, but perhaps the church can do more through the power given by our Lord as written in Matthew 28 and Acts 1:8. He added that Jesus gave us the power and the plan to reach the world through missionaries, our tithes, and offerings. He said that Jesus went to every city and village regardless of size to share the Gospel in every corner of His world, and He empowered us to go out through the world. He said that living waters go out of Mt. Hermon to create the Jordan River and take life to the Sea of Galilee, making it a place of revival, refreshment, with a greater variety of fish than anywhere in the world. He added that people come from all over the world to be on the Sea of Galilee, and the church should be a place of refreshment and rest like the Sea of Galilee. He added that the Sea of Galilee is not the stopping place of the Jordan River, because it flows out to the Dead Sea where it stays and life disappears. He said that everything God gave the church is supposed to flow through the church not stay in the church, and when the church stops the Holy Spirit and ministries from flowing through it, the church becomes without life like the Dead Sea. Rev. Cloud suggested that the focus upon self and exclusion in the church today cuts off the words of the message and the Holy Spirit. He said that the church should cry out to God asking Him to move the mountains that stand in the way, pray for spiritual earthquakes, for God to let His Spirit flow, for repentance, and forgiveness in order to see revival and new life again. He challenged Georgia Baptist to repent, to be remorseful before God, and to spread the word of Jesus worldwide.

President Don Hattaway reminded messengers to participate in the “Coffee Shop Talks” before and after the annual meeting sessions. **Matt Peek**, First Baptist, Pelham, provided the **Closing Prayer** for the Monday evening session.

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION

9 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Jon Duncan led messengers in singing the “Star Spangled Banner” and a special arrangement of “Revive Us Again” as **Congregational Praise** to begin the morning session. Second Vice President, **Eric Rentz**, noted that the 2014 Book of Reports and other reports are available to messengers online this year as well as in print. He introduced Hugo Oropeza and **Freedom Sound** from LaGrange, Georgia for a time of praise and **special music**.

Claude King led in a time of focus on prayer that Georgia Baptists be consecrated and surrendering to God.

Messengers viewed a video about the *The Christian Index* featuring Gerald Harris, editor, and other staff encouraging Georgia Baptists to subscribe to the paper.

President Hattaway expressed appreciation to **Dennis Conway**, pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church, Lindale, who served as the **Chief Convention Parliamentarian** for the sessions.

The Preachers Committee Report was provided by **Tony Samples**, Pastor, Picketts Mill Baptist Church in Dallas, Georgia. Other members of the committee were Billy Daws, Dudley Baptist Church, Dudley; Wayne Robertson, Morningside Baptist Church, Valdosta; and Matt Stacy, Tapestry Baptist Church, Atlanta. The following report was adopted:

194th Annual Meeting:	November 9 – 10, 2015 at Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta
Hosting Association:	Noonday Baptist Association
Doctrinal Sermon:	Brad Waters, First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst
Alternate:	David Owen, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville
Missionary Sermon:	Barry Snapp, Victory Baptist Church, Rockmart
Alternate:	Robby Foster, Northside Baptist Church, Valdosta
195th Annual Meeting:	November 14 – 15, 2016 at Calvary Baptist, Savannah

Executive Director, **J. Robert White**, began the **Education Commission Report** with an introduction of the presidents of the Georgia Baptist colleges who provided a report from each school.

Ergun Caner, president **Brewton-Parker College** reported that since he came on campus the college has met with SACS four times and their earlier decision has been remanded. He said the college has a balanced budget and experienced a \$10 million financial turnaround. He added that the college will meet again with SACS in December and he hopes that the college will be removed from probation. He said that while on probation the enrollment has grown and he assured messengers that Brewton-Parker is a Georgia Baptist institution with a purpose of accelerating the faith of students and sending them out with a higher calling to do ministry. He shared that Tony Nolen preached on the campus and there were 135 professions of faith in Christ. He announced that in the spring of 2015, there will be an emphasis upon missions and they are adding new athletic programs. He assured messengers that Brewton-Parker College is preparing students to be leaders for the future.

Don Dowless, president, Shorter University, reminded messengers that the motto of the university is “transforming lives through Jesus Christ” and that the strength of the university lies in its mission: “to advance God’s Kingdom through a commitment to academic excellence, spiritual growth, Christian leadership, and global service within the context of a biblical world view.” He reported that nearly 2,400 students from 36 states and 24 countries are pursuing degrees from among 50 degree programs with a student to faculty ratio of 15 to 1. He said that 82% of the faculty holds a terminal degree and they are committed to sharing God’s truth in the classroom. He reported that the School of Education and School of Nursing have relocated to newly purchased property. He said that student athletics have led the Gulf South Conference in academic honors while also being the winner of six national Christian college championship banners. He added that Shorter is a ministry of higher education, demanding the best from their students, because they are a gift from God and the university will work them hard to achieve their potential that God has given them. He said that the university is committed to sharing

Jesus Christ every day. He thanked Georgia Baptist for having faith in Shorter University and shared a personal story about his sharing Christ with a student who prayed to receive Christ and reminded him why Shorter University exists.

Emir Caner shared a video about the ministry of Truett-McConnell College that demonstrated that truth sets the college apart, the heartbeat of the college is the Great Commission and teaching students the four pillars of Christian education: to love the Lord, love His Word, love His Church, and love the lost. The video included personal testimonies from students about the Christian atmosphere on the campus that has changed their life. President Caner reported that the college has taken a stand on religious liberty and the pro-life movement and will stand for the Word of God on these issues. He suggested that if we see revival in this nation, it will be because we are standing for the Word of God. He said that we are not called to win but to fight and he assured messengers that the college will stand by their values regardless of the outcome. He expressed appreciation to Georgia Baptists for allowing him to serve at Truett-McConnell College.

Harry Sherrer, Eastern Heights, Statesboro, led in a time of **Memorials Observance** to remember pastors and retired state missionaries who have deceased since the 2013 Convention Annual Meeting. Ministers remembered include the following: Augusta Association - Grover Lee; Bethel Association - Jimmy Wayne Johnson; Bowen Association - Billy Joe Butler; Carrollton Association - J. Howard Cobble; Centennial Association - Olin Gunter, Ben Taylor; Colquitt Association - Jesse L. Alligood, Billy E. Murphy; Columbus Association - Jimmy Cook, Robert C. Wood; Daniell Association - C. B. Easterlin, Carl Milton, Sr.; Dodge Association - Lucius Robuck Burch, Jr.; Emanuel Association - Andrew Miles; Etowah Association - Rabbi Gary Maxted, Ivan Watkins; Floyd County Association - Hoyt Coker, Sr., David Ferguson; Georgia Association - Tommy Hammond; Gordon Memorial Association - Vernon Pulliam, David White; Habersham Association - Robert Watson; Hephzibah Association - James M. Bohannon; Hiawasee Association - E. Rudy Patton; Houston Association - C. R. Gamble; Laurens Association - Stephen Kyzer; Middle Association - Jeffrey D. Rollins; Mt. Vernon Association - Inman Gerral; North Georgia Association - Melvin Dixon Jr., William L. Sims, Frederick Edmund White; Northwest Georgia Association - Dwight Deal; Rehoboth Association - Jimmy Daniels, Max Arnold Patterson; Roswell Association - Charles Drake, Frank Lewis, Carl Jameson; Smyrna Association - Randy DeLoach, Charles W. Williams; Southside Network Association - James Peppers; Southwest Atlanta Association - Jamaal Ja'Corrie Williams; Stone Mountain Association - Darrell King, Lanny Moody, Raphael Woods; Telfair Association - Dan Jones; Tucker Association - Stanley Smith; Valdosta Association - Alton Hardee; West Metro Association - Quinn Evans; White County Association - Henry Powell. Retirees of the Executive Committee of Georgia Baptist Convention included the following: Edwin L. Cliburn; James "Smokey" Howard; Norma King; H. Ray Newman, Sr., and Herman T. Williams.

In honor of **Veterans Day**, **President Hattaway** recognized veterans present and expressed appreciation for the service of all veterans. **Jean Ward**, East Atlanta Baptist church planter, led in prayer for veterans and those serving now in our military.

Matt Brady, chairman of the **Order of Business Committee** presented a motion to extend the session by 20 minutes and the motion was approved.

Executive Committee Chairman Bryan Alexander began the **Executive Committee report** by expressing appreciation to those serving on the committee. A report was presented by **Executive Director J. Robert White**. He expressed appreciation for Chairman Alexander, Vice Chairman Mike Stone, and Parliamentarian Dennis Conway. He said that Georgia Baptists are

continuing the fight, finishing the race, and keeping the faith as we focus upon spiritual renewal and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ across Georgia, North America, and around the world through the Cooperative Program. He added that what messengers do in their church impacts Georgia, North America, and to the ends of the earth.

He reported that **Cooperative Program receipts** January 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014 totaled \$31,711,774.65 and the total mission gifts received by the Georgia Baptist Convention from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 totaled \$62,843,667.37. He added that the total gifts forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014 totaled \$34,575,004.09 or 55.02% of total gifts received by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

J. Robert White shared that the **Send City Strategy** provides a focus on the city of Atlanta and other cities across Georgia. He reported that the Georgia Baptist Convention is partnering with the Augusta Baptist Association for the "Augusta Project," a two year focus on the city of Augusta for the purposes of church planting, church revitalization, and intentional evangelism. Messengers viewed a video about the Augusta Project. Frank Nuckolls, state missionary, Associational Missions and Dwayne Boudreaux, associational missionary, Augusta Baptist Association, commented on the partnership and were joined by the moderator of the association, Jerry Owens, pastor, New Work Baptist Church, Lincolnnton, for the signing of the partnership agreement documents.

Executive Director J. Robert White reported that **Vice President for Church Revitalization Larry Wynn** is also providing leadership for the Evangelism ministry area along with State Missionaries, Scott Smith and Randy Mullinax. Randy Mullinax shared information about the two conferences planned for 2015 to encourage pastors and Georgia Baptists to be involved in intentional evangelism.

J. Robert White expressed appreciation to **Convention General Counsel Thomas O. Duvall for his 25 years of faithful service** to the Convention and presented a plaque to Mr. Duvall with these words:

*"The Georgia Baptist Convention Expresses Gratitude and Deep Appreciation to **Thomas O. Duvall** in celebration of twenty-five years of faithful service as General Counsel for the Georgia Baptist Convention, the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention, the Georgia Baptist Health Care System, and the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation, March 15, 1988 – March 15, 2013."*

Executive Committee Chairman, Bryan Alexander introduced persons to present items of business from the Executive Committee.

Jack Lee, Altamaha Baptist Church, Jesup, and chairman of the **Cooperative Program Budget Committee** presented the **Proposed 2015 Cooperative Program Budget** (*Book of Reports*, pages 24-27) including the instructions, directions, procedures, and recommendations and moved its adoption. He recognized members the following who also served on the committee: Andy Childs, Ebenezer Baptist, Toccoa; Paul Cowles, Friendship Baptist, Warner Robins; David Drake, First Ellijay; Jim Holmes, First Helen; Inman Houston, First Lawrenceville; Darey Kittle, Salem Baptist, Dalton; Scott McKinney, Wrens Baptist, Wrens; Jon Reed, Hebron Baptist, Dacula; Levi Skipper, Concord Baptist, Clermont; David Smith, First Ashburn; and Richard Walker, Macland Baptist, Powder Springs. The 2015 Cooperative Program Budget **was adopted as presented**.

Herman Parker, Bremen First Baptist Church, presented a recommendation regarding the **location of the 2022 Convention Annual Meeting** (*Book of Reports*, page 20) and the **recommendation was approved**.

Mike Stone, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Blackshear, presented revisions to the **Articles of Incorporation of Truett-McConnell College** (*Book of Reports*, page 22) and the **revised articles were approved**.

Andy Childs, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Toccoa, presented **Recommendations Concerning Convention Operations** (*Book of Reports*, page 22) and the **recommendations were adopted**.

Tim Jones, Britt David Baptist Church, Columbus, presented the recommendation of the **2015 Calendar of Activities** (*Book of Reports*, pages 27-33) and the **calendar was approved**.

Fred Lodge, First Baptist Church, Blairsville, and chairman of the **Church Membership Committee** presented the report from the committee showing that between November 1, 2013 and October 31, 2014, there were 36 new churches and 16 new missions for a total of **52 new churches and missions**. The following churches and missions were recognized and Fred Lodge prayed for the ministry of the congregations:

Association	Church, City
Bartow.....	Greater New Fellowship Missionary, Cartersville
.....	Unity Worship Center, Cartersville
.....	New Shiloh Baptist Church, Kingston
.....	The Stone Church, Taylorsville
Chattahoochee.....	Gospel City Church, Gainesville
Daniell.....	Grace Trust Church, Claxton
Greater Atlanta Baptist Network.....	Family of Faith Baptist Church, Roswell
.....	M28 Church, Atlanta
.....	The Rock Atlanta, Woodstock
.....	Highview Church, Villa Rica
Hebron.....	Serenity Baptist Church Corporation, Bowersville
Lanier.....	Redemption City Church, Cumming
Mallary.....	Amazing Grace Baptist Church, Albany
Noonday.....	Triumphant Community Church, Austell
Roswell.....	Redemption Baptist Fellowship, Johns Creek
.....	Dreamer Baptist Church, Johns Creek
.....	Agua Para Una Iglesia Alma Sedienta, Atlanta
Sarepta.....	Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel De Athens, Athens
.....	Calvary Bible Church, Athens
Savannah.....	Lifeway Baptist Church, Pooler
.....	Savannah Baptist Center Church, Savannah
Smyrna.....	New City Church, Alma
.....	Simple Church, Pearson
Southside Network.....	Hope International Ministries, Stockbridge
.....	True Light Baptist Church, Lovejoy
Southwest Atlanta.....	Shiloh Baptist Church, Milledgeville
.....	Light of the World Baptist Church, Morrow
.....	The Faith Center Church, Atlanta
.....	Garden of Grace Christian Community, Atlanta

.....	Present Glory Baptist Church, Madison
.....	Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Jackson
.....	The Church at Heron Bay, McDonough
.....	Damascus Road Baptist Church, Griffin
.....	New Faith Mission, Griffin
Stone Mountain.....	Covington Bible Baptist Church, Oxford

Association	Mission, City
Atlanta Metro.....	Vantage Point Church, Smyrna
.....	Troy Street Baptist Church, Decatur
.....	East Atlanta Village Church, Atlanta
.....	Atlanta Zo Baptist Church, Avondale Estates
.....	Church51, Atlanta
.....	Collaboration Church, College Park
.....	Atlanta World Outreach, Duluth
.....	Full Power Wisdom, Sandy Springs
.....	New Life International, Atlanta
.....	Reservoir Church, Atlanta
Gwinnett Metro.....	Arabic Baptist Church of Suwanee, Suwanee
Mulberry.....	Redeemer Church of Madison, Madison
.....	Redeemer Baptist Church, Dacula
Noonday.....	Encounter Church, Cumming
Ogeechee River.....	Agape Baptist Mission, Metter
Savannah.....	Lighthouse Baptist Church, Pooler

Special Music was provided by **Freedom Sound** from LaGrange, Georgia.

The following report from the **Committee on Resolutions** was presented by committee chairman, **Ken Hall**, Pastor, First Baptist, Lilburn. The chairman recognized the other members of the committee: Billy Atkins, Fleming Baptist, Augusta; Dan Fernandez, Morningside Baptist, Lincolnton; Chris Hilliard, First Baptist, Quitman; Tom Lee, East Newton Baptist, Covington; and Ken Wright, Rock Branch Baptist, Elberton. The **resolutions were adopted**, and Chairman Ken Hall led messengers in a prayer regarding the sanctity of life.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Submitted by the 2014 Committee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, the 193rd Annual Session of the Georgia Baptist Convention met in Ingleside Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia on November 10 and 11, 2014, in which the messengers representing Georgia Baptist Churches were greeted with Christian grace and warm Southern hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Timothy McCoy, Pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church, the church staff, membership and many volunteers have tirelessly served the needs of every messenger to the Georgia Baptist Convention living out the truth of this verse: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Col 3:23-24 NKJV).

WHEREAS, the musicians, choirs and worship leaders have provided thrilling praise and uplifting celebration in every convention session; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-State Association of churches has demonstrated second-mile cooperation, service and hospitality in preparation for and during the meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the 193rd session of the Georgia Baptist Convention offer sincere appreciation to the leaders and members of Ingleside Baptist Church together with Rev. Garry Goodin and the churches of the Mid-State Association for their hospitality and service; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the messengers to the 193rd session of the Georgia Baptist Convention express our loving appreciation for and extend our heartfelt blessing to Dr. Don Hattaway, president of our beloved Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we the messengers of this session of the Georgia Baptist Convention extend honor and thanksgiving to the officers and platform leaders for their guidance and service throughout this meeting. We express gratitude to Mrs. Sonia Hattaway and family for their loving support of our president and this Convention over the past year; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also express our sincere thanks and gratitude to God for 22 years of loyal service provided by our esteemed Executive Director, Dr. J. Robert White. We express appreciation to all those who serve on the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee, as well as all the Georgia Baptist Convention staff who loyally serve the causes of Christ here in Georgia and around the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the Committee on Order of Business and Rev. Matt Brady, Chairman, for the preparation of this inspirational program; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Convention join our beloved President and Executive Director in continuing to emphasize and respond to the theme, “*Revive 2014*” as expressed in Psalm 85:6, “Will You not revive us again so that Your people may rejoice in You?” (HCSB) as we commit ourselves to pray fervently for renewal within our churches and strengthen our resolve to obey both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

GBC RESOLUTION ON PROTECTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Submitted by Brad Hughes, Messenger from First Baptist Church, Blakely, GA

WHEREAS, God has made the human conscience inviolable (Romans 2:14–15; 1 Corinthians 4:3–5; 8:12; 10:29); and **WHEREAS**, God has granted to all human beings the freedom to worship or not to worship according to the dictates of their consciences (Matthew 23:37; Revelation 3:20); and

WHEREAS, history is replete with examples of the disastrous results of governmental efforts to interfere with individual conscience and religious belief; and

WHEREAS, our Baptist forebears suffered great persecution from civil authorities, including beatings, imprisonment, and death because of their commitment to the inviolable nature of conscience and faith; and

WHEREAS, many of the first immigrants to the New World came to these shores motivated by their desire for religious liberty so that they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences; and

WHEREAS, the Founders of this nation, recognizing this history and following in the great political tradition of John Locke, acknowledged that prior to the civil bonds of men in government, man's first bond and duty remained with his Creator, and man must be free to act upon his religious convictions without government coercion; and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures are clear that God gives each person his free choice to exercise his religious convictions as Joshua expressed when he said, “Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;” and

WHEREAS, upon this great principle, the First Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights, recognizing that government should not interfere with the free choice of man to serve his Creator, states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and

WHEREAS, since Georgia's first Constitution in 1777 until today, freedom of religion has always been protected as a basic human right that government should not breach; and

WHEREAS, today's Georgia Constitution states, "Each person has the natural and inalienable right to worship God, each according to the dictates of that person's own conscience; and no human authority should, in any case, control or interfere with such right of conscience." It further states, "No inhabitant of this state shall be molested in person or property or be prohibited from holding any public office or trust on account of religious opinions; but the right of freedom of religion shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state;" and

WHEREAS, it is the mandate of the Church, under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, to shine the light of Scripture into the dark practices of a sinful culture, such as abortion, euthanasia, pornography, gambling, prostitution, religious persecution, and a host of other moral concerns which must be addressed in the political arena; and

WHEREAS, it is the mandate of the Church to be the salt of the earth to preserve the fabric of our culture from total immorality, chaos, lawlessness, and anarchy; and

WHEREAS, the Church will often be at odds with the culture and spirit of the age and its message rejected and scorned by the world, sometimes even by government coercion or violent means to silence the witness of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Houston Mayor Annise Parker subpoenaed sermons that challenged Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, a legal measure that allows transgender people to use public restrooms of the gender in which they identify themselves, and while public pressure convinced the Mayor to withdraw the subpoenas, her initial decision reflects a growing attempt to silence America's pulpits and classify sermons addressing certain Biblical subjects as hate speech; and

WHEREAS, the God-given human right of religious liberty, which pre-existed civil government itself, and which is a constitutional birthright of every American, should be personally cherished as a gift of God, strongly defended as a loving act toward our neighbors, and given every support to provide a bulwark against such coercion and persecution in this generation and the generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act (RFRA), which passed Congress in 1993, has proven to be an effective buttress for religious liberty, ensuring that federal laws and federal policies, even those that appear to be neutral toward religion on their face, cannot substantially burden religious liberty without a compelling state interest and with the least restrictive means; and

WHEREAS, RFRA was the leading reason why religious liberty claims were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Burnell v. Hobby Lobby*, ensuring that the Affordable Care Act could not coerce business owners, holding sincerely held religious beliefs, to violate their consciences and force them to include abortion-inducing drugs in their insurance coverage for employees; and

WHEREAS, RFRA only applies to federal laws and federal policies and cannot be applied in the States unless and until States pass their own RFRA's, as now 19 states have done, including all states that are contiguous to the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that just as in the days when Daniel was thrown in the lion's den due to what appeared to be a neutral law cleverly crafted by those who hated his religion and his righteousness, we, too, live among those who love wickedness and will find ways to use the coercive power of government against God's people, and

WHEREAS, religious liberty has been increasingly under attack in the State of Georgia as is evidenced by restrictions on Christian clubs at several of the State's universities, denial of after-school Bible clubs in K-12 schools, restrictions against placing Bibles in public libraries,

zoning restrictions that deny churches the use of their own property, a ban on the singing of religious Christmas songs at a school's Christmas program, opposition against prayer at football games, and even the dismissal of a university student from her course of study in counseling when she expressed disagreement with the same-sex lifestyle;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we must defend religious liberty now for the sake of the next generation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pledge to defend the God-given and constitutionally guaranteed right of every American citizen to worship God freely in thought, word, and action, according to the dictates of his or her conscience, and to support the passage of legislation such as RFRA or other laws protecting religious liberty in our state and nation.

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.

RESOLUTION ON GAMBLING

Submitted by Brad Waters, Messenger from First Baptist Church, Hazelhurst, GA

WHEREAS, A recent Gallup Poll showed that 82 percent of Americans favored some form of legalized gambling, we stand firm in our resolve that gambling is an immoral effort that creates deliberate risks not inherent in or necessary to the functioning of society; and

WHEREAS, Gambling often appeals to greed and covetousness (Luke 12:15; I Timothy 6:9-10), and gamblers win at the direct economic loss of others (I Corinthians 13:5; Romans 13:10; Matthew 7:12), gambling is contrary to honest work and responsible stewardship (Ephesians 4:28; I Corinthians 4:1-2) and gambling is highly addictive (I Corinthians 9:25; Galatians 5:23), and

WHEREAS, Aggressive actions by the gambling interests in recent months make abundantly clear their intention of seeking to expand legalized gambling in Georgia, including pari-mutuel gambling or wagering on horse racing; and

WHEREAS, out-of-state corporations and businesses are poised to invest millions of dollars in a bold effort to change state laws to allow casinos and pari-mutuel gambling; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Horse Racing Coalition hails the fact that pari-mutuel wagering is legal in 43 states, including our neighboring state of Florida and is aggressively lobbying for pari-mutuel wagering in Georgia, claiming that it will provide tax revenue and employment opportunities, and

WHEREAS, Many legislators have shown a shameful willingness to give careless and inadequate consideration to gambling legislation, to pass legislation out of committees without public hearings, and to schedule votes on gambling legislation in a manner carefully contrived to be beneficial to passage of the gambling legislation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting in Macon, November 10-11, encourage Georgia Baptists to work diligently with other Christians and other responsible citizens who oppose the spread of legalized gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention to engage in vigorous programs of education for adults, teenagers, and children about the moral tragedies wrought by legalized gambling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our prayerful support and strong encouragement for those who are providing courageous leadership in vigorously opposing the legalization of gambling both in the states where votes are scheduled and at the national level where pressure is building in support of legalized gambling;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we pray for Baptists to have the moral courage to stand strong in the face of this ominous threat to our state and lend our aid and support to Mike Griffin and our Public Affairs Ministry as we confront this menacing issue in the days to come.

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.

RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBER-BULLYING

Submitted by: Allen Rea, Messenger from Dunn Memorial Baptist Church, Baxley, GA

WHEREAS, The Bible is clear concerning affirming positive, Christ-like interaction with all people whether verbally in person or using modern digital means such as social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter; and

WHEREAS, the New Testament specifically exhorts believers to be kind to those who abuse them, revile them, and even condemn them (Matthew 5:11; Luke 6:11; 31; 2 Peter 2:3; Romans 12:17-21); and

WHEREAS, along with the rise of advanced internet technologies spawning new methods of human socializing and personal interaction has come the increasing presence of social media abusers the occasion of which has forced lawmakers to write new criminal laws against social media abuse like cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying, and cyber-harassment; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics reports that 1 of 3 students report being bullied during school, with over 16% of all students having considered suicide, 13% creating a plan to commit suicide, and 8% making a serious attempt to commit suicide; and

WHEREAS, cyber-bullying has been named by leading analysts as a major factor in considering teen suicide, the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year-olds; and

WHEREAS, Studies in Britain have found half of the suicides among youth are related to bullying, and in this country, analysts report that cyber-bullying leads to thoughts of suicide more than traditional bullying; and,

WHEREAS, on July 29, 2014, Braxton Caner, oldest son of Ergun and Jill Caner, and older brother to Drake Caner, tragically died by a self-inflicted wound at the age of 15, a teen who may have only a few weeks earlier been victimized by cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying, cyber-harassment, or the like; and

WHEREAS, a memorial fund was established by concerned fellow believers entitled *The Braxton Caner Memorial Fund for the Prevention of Suicide and Cyber-bullying* as a means to address, inform, and educate the public on both suicide and cyber-crimes like cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, and other social media abuse; and,

WHEREAS, the Christian Index published a document entitled "Braxton's List," a posthumous memorial for the late Braxton Caner describing acceptable Christian etiquette believers might observe on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2014 Georgia Baptist Convention meeting on November 10-11 in Macon, Georgia, do hereby express its appreciation for social media platforms as appropriate means for Christians to communicate, in addition to its profound concern over the rise of cyber-crimes like cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying, and/or cyber-harassment; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest sorrow for the tragic and untimely deaths of the younger citizens in this country, deaths caused and/or attributed to suicide, and we deplore any and all contributing factors leading teenagers to take their own lives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those concerned believers who established a memorial fund for the prevention of suicide and cyber-bullying which now reportedly leads to thoughts of suicide more than traditional bullying has done, and further encourage believers everywhere, especially our sister Southern Baptist state conventions, to commend those establishing similar funds in their states to raise awareness and educate the public about bullying of any sort, whether on the school-yard or on the internet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the messengers of this convention hereby commend "Braxton's List" as an exemplar model for Christians everywhere to adopt and adapt as their personal social media etiquette:

Braxton's List for Social Media Conduct:

1. If you can't post something nice ... ask yourself if you should post at all.
2. Don't let momentary anger become a permanent post.
3. Remember, the people you want to attack have a family that feels their hurt.
4. Public people can have personal problems that the public doesn't know. They may be closer to the edge than you know because you don't know them. Stop before they drop.
5. God says "Vengeance is Mine" so it's best to let God do best what He knows best to do.
6. Christians never have the right to be unkind, not even once. Mean posts about an individual multiple times is harassment.

7. Post above reproach. If in doubt, don't. Be a building block and not a stumbling stone.
8. There are two sides to every story and the Internet is not the best place to tell the difference between the two or the best place to settle the difference between the two.
9. It's better not to post and let people think you're a fool than to post and remove all doubt.
10. Nobody wins on the Internet but lives and families can be lost because of it.
11. Satan is the accuser of the brethren; he doesn't need our help.
12. Praying for our enemies accomplishes more than posting about them. Remember, because we pray for them doesn't give us the right to post mean and hurtful things about them.
13. Believers are best dealt with by the local church. Determining their salvation is the role of the Holy Spirit and not social media. If you don't like how the local church handled the situation see #5 (see more at www.braxtonsl.com).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we the messengers commit ourselves to honest Christian discourse and communication which best honors our Lord, edifies His church, and leads toward a healthy, effective witness for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMON CORE EDUCATION STANDARDS
(ALSO KNOWN AS COLLEGE AND CAREER GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS)**

Submitted by Tanya Ditty, Messenger from Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, GA

WHEREAS, we are grateful to all our educators for their sacrifice and service in educating our children, and endeavoring to teach high educational standards; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the primary responsibility for the education of children according to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 rests with their parent(s); and

WHEREAS, we believe that education standards are best determined with the active input of local citizens, parents, teachers, and taxpayers in a transparent process; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards, developed by unaccountable non-profit groups during a closed-door process, are a set of copyrighted national academic standards promoted as a method for conforming American students to uniform ("one size fits all") achievement goals, allegedly to make them more competitive in a global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, this push to nationalize standards weakens parental influence, leads to more centralization of education in violation of federalism and local control, and violates the spirit, if not the letter, of three federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards are part of a broader program that includes federally funded testing and the collection and sharing of massive amounts of personal student data, which may violate the privacy of students and their families and increase the federal government's ability to invasively monitor American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Baptists oppose any standards that weaken parental influence, undermine conservative values, disregard our Christian heritage, or penalize students who refuse to endorse a secular, naturalistic worldview; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards effectively remove educational choice, competition, and innovation within the public school system since all schools and all districts must conform to this top-down control; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards require teachers to focus so completely on preparing the students for the standardized tests mandated by the Common Core that it essentially limits teachers from assisting and challenging their students as unique individuals to excel with their God-given talents and abilities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Baptist Convention requests the Georgia State Legislature to withdraw Georgia from the Common Core State Standards

Initiative and any testing aligned with the Common Core standards, and prevent other national standards in our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the Georgia State Legislature prohibit all state officials from entering into any agreements that cede any measure of control over Georgia education to entities outside the state and ensure that all content standards as well as curriculum decisions supporting those standards are adopted through a transparent statewide and/or local process fully accountable to the citizens in every school district of Georgia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the Georgia State Legislature prohibit the collection, tracking, and sharing of personally identifiable student and teacher data except with schools or educational agencies within the state; 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.

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.

Messengers viewed a video report of the **Church Financial Services** ministry led by **Keith Hamilton**, state missionary, with a focus upon the Mission Dignity program that provides assistance to retired ministers and spouses.

There was no **Miscellaneous Business**.

The **WMU and Women's Enrichment Ministry Report** was provided by **Beth Ann Williams**, Executive Director-Treasurer and **Jackie Hardy**, President. Beth Ann Williams shared that there are many amazing things happening through the ministry of WMU, such as their summer missions camp at Camp Pinnacle where 675 girls attended during the recent summer and 20 of them gave their life to Christ, others made a recommitment of life, and some committed their life to missions. She added that My Mission Engage Weekend focuses upon women ages 18-35, and 65 women from across the state came together in 2014 to minister to women affected by human trafficking. She reported that 700 women came to Callaway Gardens in April for a time of missions inspiration and spiritual renewal. She added that Christian Women's Job Corp (CWJC) is a ministry that provides job skills and life skills to women in need in a Christian context. She said that this ministry includes Bible study, and mentoring at 5 locations across Georgia. Messengers viewed a video about Christian Women's Job Corp and a graduate of this program shared a personal testimony about how this ministry has changed her life. Site directors of this ministry were introduced and messengers expressed appreciation for their ministry.

Jackie Hardy shared that the mission of WMU continues to be to lead believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. She said that the missions discipleship programs through WMU are bringing people to Christ, helping them to understand what God has called them to do and how to be on mission. She said that over 77% of the gifts through the Cooperative Program in Georgia come from churches that have an active WMU. She said that the Georgia WMU leaders are well-trained and ready to help the churches in Georgia to be radically involved in the mission of God.

Jamie Powell, First Baptist, Perry, read verses from the book of Habakkuk and led messengers in prayer in preparation for the Doctrinal Sermon. **Freedom Sound** provided **Special Music**.

Tez Andrews, Connect Church, Decatur, shared the Doctrinal Sermon. He began his message with sharing a video depicting the strong presence of violence in the world today. He suggested that our response might be: "Where are you, God?" or "Have you forgotten about us?" or "We need you, God." He said that when he started a church three years ago, he discovered that

people just seem to not want God anymore and he began to ask God, "Do you see what is going on?" He added that he decided that since he had seen God work in the past that he would not lose his trust in Him, and no matter how long he had to wait, he will stand for God, live by faith, and wait for revival and restoration. He reminded messengers that the prayers of Habakkuk and others in the Bible are known as laments because they occur when people cry out to God, ask how long they must wait for deliverance from God, and then they bow in praise to God and trust in Him. He suggested that the laments in Habakkuk and other books of the Bible teach us that we should cry out to God, request to be delivered, vow to praise God, and be resolved to trust in Him. He said that Georgia Baptists must cry out to God if we want to see revival because God is the only solution to the great sin and need in our world. He said that as a church planter he has cried out to God with joy when he baptized 10 people and 8 of them were men, and then he cried out to God in despair the following day when he learned that water had leaked from the baptismal pool onto the floor of the gym where the church was meeting and caused \$80,000 in damages. He said that sometimes all we can do is cry out to God, and even though we sometimes do not like His answers, we need to keep on crying out to God. He suggested that we need to claim the promises of God and expect Him to do something when we pray. He said that sometimes tragedy happens before transformation can happen, just as Jesus had thousands following Him, but then He was rejected, alone, beaten, and suffered death for each of us. He encouraged messengers to do as Habakkuk did and cry out to God, live by faith, claim His promises, and expect God to do something, because God is still in control.

Jon Reed, evangelist, Buford, prayed the **closing prayer** to end the session.

ANNUAL MEETING SESSION

2:00 – 5:55 P.M. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The afternoon session began with **music by the Jubal Brass and the Jubalheir Orchestra** followed by **Congregational Praise** led by Jon Duncan. Claude King led in a time of **focus on prayer**.

The chairman of the **Committee on Nominations** David Franklin, Associational Missionary, Bartow Baptist Association, presented the following report and it **was approved**.

2014 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

CREDENTIALS

(Terms to expire 2017)

(Chair) Tim Hinds, Annistown Road Baptist, Snellville, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association
 Samuel Ayala, Hebron Hispanic Baptist, Dacula, Mulberry Baptist Association
 Eric Grissino, South Newport Baptist, Townsend, New Sunbury Baptist Association
 Brad Hughes, Terrell Baptist, Sumner, Turner Baptist Association
 Randall LaRoche, CrossPointe Baptist, Ocilla, Ben Hill-Irwin Baptist Association
 Fred Parker, Antioch Baptist, Eastman, Dodge Baptist Association
 Chester Proctor, Smith Street Baptist, Vidalia, Daniell Baptist Association
 Barry Snapp, Victory Baptist, Rockmart, Polk-Haralson Baptist Association

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

(Terms to expire 2017)

Daniel Ausbun, First Baptist, Moreland, Western Baptist Association

Wes Cantrell, First Baptist, Woodstock, Noonday Baptist Association

*Kay Godwin, Emmanuel Baptist, Blackshear, Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association

*Dominic LaRicca, First Baptist, Douglas, Smyrna Baptist Association

*Bruce Thompson, First Baptist, Cartersville, Bartow Baptist Association

EDUCATION COMMISSION

(Term to expire 2019)

James Kinnebrew, Adgateville Baptist, Hillsboro, Central Baptist Association

(Term to expire 2015)

David Self, Hardwick Baptist, Hardwick, Washington Baptist Association

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

(Terms to expire 2019)

Jarrett Burch, Fair Haven Baptist, Eastman, Dodge County Baptist Association

Oscar Cope, Mt Vernon Baptist, Fairburn, Fairburn Baptist Association

*Paula Neely, First Baptist, Moultrie, Colquitt Baptist Association:

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

(Terms to expire 2015)

Steve Fenion, First Baptist, Oakwood, Chattahoochee Baptist Association

Tommy Freeman, Plentitude Baptist, Gray, Mid-State Baptist Association

ORDER OF BUSINESS

(Terms to expire 2015)

(Chair) Jim Perdue, Second Baptist, Warner Robins, Rehoboth Baptist Association

Fred Anderson, Mt. Vernon Baptist, Baxley, Consolation Baptist Association

Stephen Cochran, Friendship Baptist, Cartersville, Bartow Baptist Association

Vann Dempsey, Calvary Baptist, Jesup, Altamaha Baptist Association

*Valerie Ellington, First Baptist, Soperton, Daniell Baptist Association

Shep Johnson, First Baptist, Douglas, Smyrna Baptist Association

*Nadine Lang, Cornerstone Baptist, Lithia Springs, West Metro Baptist Association

Roger Naylor, Laura Chapel, Patterson, Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association

Mike Peterson, Second Baptist, Lafayette, Northwest Georgia Baptist Association

*Scotty Tipper, Milford Baptist, Leary, Bethel Baptist Association

PREACHERS COMMITTEE

(Terms to expire 2015)

(Chair) Butch Knight, First Baptist, Albany, Mallery Baptist Association

Fred Evers, Northside Baptist, Tifton, Mell Baptist Association

Bob Jolly, First Baptist, Cumming, Lanier Baptist Association

Phil Wages, First Baptist, Winterville, Sarepta Baptist Association

RESOLUTIONS

(Terms to expire 2015)

(Chair) David Huff, First Baptist, Lilburn, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association

Carlisle Driggers, Lake Country Baptist, Eatonton, Central Baptist Association

John Jenkins, First Baptist, Kingsland, Southeast Baptist Association

Stanley Luke, First Baptist, Nashville, Valdosta Baptist Association

David Meacham, Pinecrest Baptist, Gainesville, Chattahoochee Baptist Association

Paul Robertson, Windsor Springs Baptist, Augusta, Augusta Baptist Association

GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

(Terms to expire 2019)

*Susan Allen, First Baptist, Statesboro, Ogeechee River Baptist Association

*Darlene Collins, Wrens Baptist, Wrens, Hephzibah Baptist Association

Chad Cooper, Providence Baptist, Whigham, Grady County Baptist Association

Ben Crowdis, First Baptist, Cuthbert, Bethel Baptist Association

*Cindy Evers, Northside Baptist, Tifton, Mell Baptist Association

*George Roberson, Altamaha Baptist, Jesup, Altamaha Baptist Association

(Term to expire 2016)

*Maudie Hutto, First Tunnel Hill Baptist, Ringgold, North Georgia Baptist Association

GEORGIA BAPTIST ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

(Terms to expire 2017)

*Ryan Bowman, New Hope Baptist, Fayetteville, Fairburn Baptist Association

Todd Sullens, First Baptist, Leesburg, Mallery Baptist Association

GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION

(Terms to expire 2019)

*John Frady, North Metro First Baptist, Lawrenceville, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association

*Jack Nash, Second Baptist, Warner Robins, Rehoboth Baptist Association

BAPTIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES OF GEORGIA

(Terms to expire 2019)

*Martha Kreis, Lebanon Baptist, Epworth, Morganton Baptist Association

*Maudeen Merck, Mt. Yonah Baptist, Cleveland, White County Baptist Association

*Ron Stone, First Baptist, Newnan, Western Baptist Association

BAPTIST VILLAGE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

(Terms to expire 2018)

Jamie P Archer, Oak Hill Baptist, Millen, Middle Baptist Association

John Gibbs, Bethlehem Baptist, Ocilla, Ben Hill-Irwin Baptist Association

*H A Griffin, First Baptist, Waycross, Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association

*George H. Steedley, First Baptist, Brunswick, Southeast Baptist Association

*Ruby Turner, Marshes of Glynn Baptist, Brunswick, Southeast Baptist Association

BREWTON-PARKER COLLEGE

(Terms to expire 2019)

Fred Evers, Northside Baptist, Tifton, Mell Baptist Association

*Betty Jane Fountain, First Baptist, Mount Vernon, Daniell Baptist Association

Mark Jones, Higgston Baptist, Ailey, Daniell Baptist Association

*Schel Paulk, New Providence Baptist, Guyton, Savannah Baptist Association

Josh Saefkow, Abilene Baptist, Martinez, Augusta Baptist Association

*Lynda Yawn, First Baptist, Statesboro, Ogeechee River Baptist Association

(Terms to expire 2016)

Carlos Sibley, First Baptist, Watkinsville, Sarepta Baptist Association

(Terms to expire 2017)

Derwood Poole, Calvary Baptist, Savannah, Savannah Baptist Association

SHORTER UNIVERSITY

(Terms to expire 2019)

Bob Bagley, Holly Creek Baptist, Dalton, N GA/Murray County Baptist Association

- *Bryan Griffin, Hollywood Baptist, Rome, Floyd County Baptist Association
- *Vivian Johnson, First Baptist, Douglas, Smyrna Baptist Association
- *Richard Mills, Fellowship Baptist, Rome, Floyd County Baptist Association
- *Bryan Rice, Calvary Baptist, Rome, Floyd County Baptist Association
- Ben Smith, Central Baptist, Waycross, Piedmont-Okefenokee Baptist Association
(Terms to expire 2016)
- *Wanda Levan, Fellowship Baptist, Rome, Floyd County Baptist Association

TRUETT-MCCONNELL COLLEGE

(Terms to expire 2019)

- Phil Bray, Fort Creek Baptist, Dearing, Kilpatrick Baptist Association
- *Jay Burkette, Concord Baptist, Clermont, Chattahoochee Baptist Association
- Tony Hamilton, Annistown Road Baptist, Snellville, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association
- Russell Harbin, Northeast Baptist, Braselton, Mulberry Baptist Association
- *Bruce Thompson, First Baptist, Cartersville, Bartow Baptist Association
- Darrell Westmoreland, Center Baptist, Helen, White County Baptist Association
(Terms to expire 2017)
- Jamie Powell, First Baptist, Perry, Rehoboth Baptist Association

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Terms to expire 2019)

- Augusta Baptist Association:** Brad Whitt, Abilene Baptist, Augusta
- Catoosa Baptist Association:** Michael Kirby, Mt. Pisgah Baptist, Ringgold
- Consolation Baptist Association:** Allen Rea, Dunn Memorial Baptist, Baxley
- Daniell Baptist Association:** Karl Hay, First Baptist, Mount Vernon
- Ebenezer Baptist Association:** Mark Grinstead, Stone Creek Baptist, Dry Branch
- Floyd County Baptist Association:** Tony Christie, Sherwood Forest Baptist, Rome
- Grady County Baptist Association:** Gordon Cloud, Pine Park Baptist, Cairo
- Habersham Baptist Association:** Walter Singletary, Hills Crossing Baptist, Clarkesville
- Hephzibah Baptist Association:** Scott McKinney, Wrens Baptist, Wrens
- Kilpatrick Baptist Association:** Randall Whitaker, Powell Baptist, Harlem
- Little River Baptist Association:** Tony Dixon, First Baptist, Abbeville
- Merritt Baptist Association:** Jimmie Chapman, Trinity Baptist, Manchester
- Mount Vernon Baptist Association:** Roger Byrd, Bay Springs Baptist, Wrightsville
- Mountaintown Baptist Association:** David Drake, First Baptist, Ellijay
- Northwest Georgia Baptist Association:** Jim Bennett, Fairview Baptist, Rossville
- Rabun Baptist Association:** *Mickey Justice, Betty's Creek Baptist, Dillard
- Telfair Baptist Association:** Todd Crosby, First Baptist, McRae
- Tugalo Baptist Association:** Bill Stacey, Indian Creek Baptist, Carnesville
- At Large:** Kevin Riley, Clarkston International Baptist, Covington, Greater Atlanta Baptist Network
- At Large:** Bill Johnson, Reach the Nations Baptist, Conyers, Stone Mountain Baptist Association
- At Large:** Reuben Torres, Victoria En Cristo Baptist, Riverdale, Southside Baptist Network
- At Large:** Bong S Choi, Sugarloaf Korean Baptist, Suwanee, Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association
(Term to expire 2015)
- Centennial Baptist Association:** Mark Harris, Mount Olive Baptist, Molena
(Term to expire 2016)
- Mid-State Baptist Association:** Jeff Powell, Unity Baptist, Lizella
- Piedmont-Okefenokee Association:** Randy Jacoby, First Baptist, Folkston
- Georgia:** Keith Etheridge, Double Branches Baptist, Lincolnton

(Term to expire 2017)

Appalachee Baptist Association: James K. Brown, Annie Mary Baptist, Monroe

(Term to expire 2018)

At Large: Tim Batchelor, Sharon Baptist, Appling, Kilpatrick Baptist Association

Messengers viewed a video report about the ministry of the **Baptist Retirement Communities of Georgia** featuring **Peggy Beckett**, President/CEO. The report included how the residents participate in ministry in their local community.

The **State Speakers Competition Winner, Triston Smith**, First Baptist, Tunnel Hill shared his winning speech entitled "Beautiful Feet." He spoke about the importance of sharing Jesus with others and challenged messengers to share the Gospel of Jesus.

Messengers viewed a video report about the ministry of the **Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation** featuring **Will Bacon**, President and CEO. The report featured one of the ministries supported by grants from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation.

There was **no Miscellaneous Business**. Frank Nuckolls, state missionary, announced that last year Georgia Baptists provided 21,808 backpacks for children in Appalachia and 15,627 will be delivered to children in Appalachia this Christmas along with backpacks from other state conventions for a total of 33,627 backpacks.

Executive Director J. Robert White presented the **Mission Georgia Report**. He began by thanking messengers for their gifts through the Mission Georgia Offering. He introduced **Ken Jones**, Campus Minister at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega, who shared about how campus ministry changed his life when he was a college student and how the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at the University of North Georgia has touched and changed the lives of students and taken the love of Christ around the world through the students.

A time of **Special Music** was provided by the **Jubal Chorus** singing *Behold Our God* led by Jon Duncan.

The **Mission Georgia Report continued** with a focus on church planting, church revitalization, and intentional evangelism. Messengers viewed a video with a personal testimony by Zahleih Cung Lan "Lante" Lal, the youth pastor at the Gospel Baptist Church in Atlanta, a Burmese church plant at Rehoboth Baptist Church. The following church planters representing various areas of the state joined Dr. White on stage: **Augusta** - Jeremiadoss Thanga, Hope International Christian Church; **Atlanta** - Jesse Hutchison, Garden of Grace Christian Community; **Cairo** - Joseph Smith, New Beginnings Baptist Church; **Cumming** - Rick Julian, Encounter Church; **Brunswick** - Luis Trejo, Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana de Brunswick; **Lilburn** - Mokhles Hanna, Jesus the Light of the World Arabic; **Dublin** - Josh Meadows, Church at the Park; **Dahlonega** - Gabe Dodd, The Branch Church; **Statesboro** - Ariel Rodriguez, Bulloch County Hispanic Mission; **Lawrenceville** - Roy Brown, New Life International Church; and **Cornelia** - Oudone Thirakoune, Level Grove Laotian Baptist Mission. Dr. White said that these planters represent the ministry of 62 church plants across Georgia and added that there are 80 church plants in process across the state. He encouraged messengers to consider sponsoring a church plant. Messengers viewed a video of **Roy Brown** sharing a testimony about his family keeping their faith when they lost everything due to a fire at their home. Roy Brown joined Dr. White on stage and shared how the Convention ministered to him and his family during this experience that taught him that God will not leave or forsake you and

that when you have nothing but Jesus, He is enough. He expressed great appreciation for help provided to him and his family during this time by the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Dr. White continue the Mission Georgia Report and said that there are many plateaued or declining churches in the Georgia and Southern Baptist Convention that need revitalization. He reported that the Georgia Baptist Convention has established 24 **Pastors' Round Table** groups around the state. Messengers viewed a video about **church revitalization** and Pastors' Round Table groups featuring Larry Wynn, Convention Vice President of Church Revitalization. Dr. White encouraged pastors to participate in a group in their area. **Kevin Williams**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Villa Rica, joined Dr. White and shared a testimony about how God called him to serve at this church and because the church has been revitalized, baptisms have increased from 9 last year to 118 people during his first year of service with the church. He suggested that church revitalization requires strong leadership, a focus upon visitation, a vision for church planting, giving generously through the Cooperative Program, and sharing Jesus.

Dr. White shared a video about "Operation Liberate," a ministry in Georgia that raises awareness of human sex trafficking and is working to help those trapped by it. Messengers were challenged to pray for and to participate in the ministry. Messengers viewed a video of the testimony of a young woman who was liberated from human sex trafficking in Georgia through faith in Jesus Christ.

Claude King led messengers in a time of **Focus on Prayer** for revival. He asked messengers to gather for prayer that Georgia Baptists will return to their first love, the love for Christ.

During the **Election of Officers**, 1st Vice President, Stephen Fountain, presided during the **nominations for the office of the president**. **David Franklin**, messenger of First Baptist Church, Cartersville, nominated Don Hattaway, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, to serve as president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. There were no further nominations and **Don Hattaway was elected to serve as 2015 Convention President**.

President Don Hattaway presided for the **nominations for vice presidents** of the Georgia Baptist Convention. **Tommy Fountain**, Grace Baptist Church, Monroe, nominated **Jeff Daniels**, Rossville Baptist Church. **Bill Compton**, Belmont Baptist Church, Gainesville, nominated **David Mills**, Beech Haven Baptist Church, Athens. **Stephen Fountain**, First Baptist Church, Buford, nominated **David Hardwick**, Gentian Baptist Church, Columbus. **Brad Whitt**, Abilene Baptist Church, Martinez, nominated **Jason Jones**, Rossville Baptist Church, Rossville. **Michael Stovall**, Centennial Baptist Church, Rutledge, nominated **Brian Moore**, New Providence Baptist Church, Smarr.

Tony Samples, Picketts Mill Baptist Church, nominated **Danny Henson**, New Liberty Baptist Church, Ringgold, to serve as the **Recording Secretary** of the Georgia Baptist Convention. There were no further nominations and **Danny Henson was elected by acclamation**. **Danny Henson** nominated **Tom Vann**, Rentz Baptist Church and **Freddie Rhodes**, Westview Baptist Church, Hawkinsville to serve as **Assistant Recording Secretaries**. There were no further nominations and both were elected by acclamation.

4th Vice President, **Tim Jones**, introduced Jon Duncan to lead the **Jubal Chorus** in a time of **Special Music**.

A video report was viewed by messengers about the ministry for senior adults provided through the ministry of the **Baptist Village Retirement Communities** featuring **Delos Sharpton**, President and CEO.

Messengers viewed a video report about the ministry for children and mothers in need provided through the **Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries** led by **James S. Harper**, President and CEO.

A special video message was viewed by messengers featuring **Ronnie Floyd, President of the Southern Baptist Convention**, extending an invitation to attend the 2015 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting and encouraging messengers to pray for revival among Southern Baptists.

Executive Director J. Robert White shared that the **Sons of Jubal** will go to Israel to provide concerts in October of 2015. Messengers viewed a video featuring the Israel Minister of Tourism and Eyal Carlin, the Consul/Director, Southern Region, Israel Ministry of Tourism shared greetings with messengers. Dr. White encouraged messengers to consider joining the group for this trip.

Jon Duncan led the **Jubal Chorus** in a time of **Special Music** followed by **Congregational Praise**.

The **closing message** was provided by **Bill Elliff**, The Summit Church, Little Rock, Arkansas. He shared that when an emergency occurs, we need deliberate and immediate reactions. He suggested that God may look at America today and see a nation in a spiritual emergency situation. He suggested that Georgia Baptists should change their behavior and lives to deal with the spiritual emergency. He said that we need extraordinary things from God as described in Psalm 85:1-13. He said that that we cannot change the moral and spiritual decline of our nation, but God must send His judgement and His people must cry out to Him before revival can occur. He suggested that the cry must come with the acknowledgement that only God can help us. He said that we have not seen a nationwide revival in over 110 years, but God can still send revival. He said that revival revives the church, awakens the lost, transforms the culture, and advances the mission at a rapid pace. He described the revival that occurred in Georgia in 1857 and 1858 when people began to pray together and listen to a message from God, and 100,000 people came to faith in Christ. He said that God longs to redeem His church, and if God worked again as He did in the first Great Awakening, 1.5 million people in Georgia would be saved. He suggested that nothing is changing the culture for good in our nation. He added that since 1973, there have been 55 million babies killed, but if revival comes, it will change our culture. He reminded messengers that every great missions movement in history has come out of a spiritual revival, beginning in the book of Acts. He said that revival brings our heart back in unison with God and we begin to care for lost people around the world. He said that we should cry out to God, not only because He is the one who can save us, but also because He is waiting for us to cry out to Him. He said that Southern Baptists are gathering on their knees asking for revival, with 13 state conventions actively engaged in praying for revival, and every major denomination in America has some initiative for revival and awakening. He shared that he believes that we are near to a spectacular revival experience and challenged messengers to be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to make a commitment to extraordinary, desperate prayer.

Messengers were led to a time of a **Focus on Prayer** for revival to occur among Georgia Baptists by **Claude King**.

President Hattaway introduced the **newly elected 2015 Georgia Baptist Convention officers**. He reported that **David Mills** with 559 votes was elected as **1st vice president**, **Jason Jones** with 544 votes was elected as **2nd vice president**, **David Hardwick** with 495 votes was elected as **3rd vice president**, and **Jeff Daniels** with 461 votes was elected as **4th vice president**. He also introduced **Danny Henson** as **Recording Secretary** with **Tom Vann** and **Freddie Rhodes** as **Assistant Recording Secretaries**.

The **benediction** for the 2014 Convention Annual Meeting was provided by **Todd Briggs**, pastor of Midtown Church in Atlanta.

President Don Hattaway adjourned the 193rd session of the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention with 1,256 registered messengers.