**Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage**

*The messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting together in regular conference, June 29–July 3, 2015, in Omaha, Nebraska,*

**Believing** that the Bible teaches that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman and that sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the bonds of a Biblically defined marriage; and believing that any other form of marriage or sexual intimacy is immoral and a perversion of God’s gracious will (Genesis 2:18, 24, 25; Matthew 19:4-6; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4, see Article V, GARBC Articles of Faith),

**Affirming** the authority and sufficiency of the Bible, believing it to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions shall be tried (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21, see Article I, GARBC Articles of Faith, paraphrased),

**Convinced** of God’s sovereign control, as expressed in Isaiah: “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” (Isa. 46:9, 10),

**Confident** that, despite the decisions and actions of human beings and institutions, one day “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:10, 11),

**Recalling** that the locus of the people of God in this dispensation is not America nor Israel but the church of Jesus Christ, a community of the redeemed, tied to God’s revelation, and concerned for its own holiness (1 Pet. 4:17),

**Recognizing** that the mission of the church is not changing culture, but lovingly proclaiming the gospel that transforms individuals, making them new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17),

**Noting** the June 26, 2015, United States Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide; and concernedabout the ultimate ramifications of this decision to undermine quiet and peaceable life and ministry for the church and believers (1 Tim. 2:2), **we**

**Reaffirm** our commitment to a Biblical view of marriage, not capitulating to the pressures of culture, government, or other religious bodies,

**Recommend** that church members guard against animosity and move toward others in this world with the love of Christ, sharing the gospel with courtesy and gentleness, and, if challenged concerning beliefs and practices, using God’s Word to help them know the truth,

**Urge** believers to not feel angry or betrayed by this recent decision, recognizing that fallen humankind lacks the knowledge of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit within to discern the truth,

**Comfort** those who are shaken or fearful, encouraging them to trust in God (Acts 4:23–31),

**Determine,** if necessary, to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29),

**Pray** for those in authority (1 Tim 2:2),

**Practice** being good citizens and neighbors, and

**Call upon** all true believers to unashamedly proclaim the gospel.

For further information please see “A Regular Baptist Response to the Same-Sex Marriage Decision” (GARBC.org commentary article <http://www.garbc.org/commentary/a-regular-baptist-response-to-the-same-sex-marriage-decision/>)