

Resolution concerning Discipleship

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

Affirming the Great Commission as Jesus Christ’s last command given to His disciples and His first word to the nascent church (Matt. 28:18–20),

Defining the Great Commission’s essence as “making disciples of all peoples” by going to lost people with the gospel of Christ; by baptizing new believers, identifying them publicly with Christ and with other disciples (i.e., the local church); and by teaching these followers to practice all things commanded by Jesus Christ,

Regretting that many churches lack effective penetration of the gospel into their local communities and that Biblical literacy in the North American evangelical and fundamental church continues an alarming decline, resulting in the toleration and acceptance of unbiblical beliefs and practices, contributing to spiritual immaturity and an inability to discern difficult contemporary moral and ethical issues,

Recognizing that the growing multicultural context of our communities will require faithful, careful, and innovative cross-cultural communication of the gospel to all people groups,

Believing that disciples are people who not only profess Jesus Christ as Savior but are also those being transformed by the Holy Spirit as they learn from Christ (Eph. 4:20, 21), respond to Christ (Mark 8:34), serve Christ (2 Cor. 5:14, 15), and become fruitful witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8),

Identifying spiritual maturity as display of the full image of Jesus Christ in daily life (Col. 1:28, 29) and as theological maturity that withstands the various winds of doctrines present in the church today (Eph. 4:13–15),

Emphasizing that Jesus Christ Himself gave the gifts of the offices to the church, pastor-teacher in particular, to equip saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11–16), this work of ministry being “making disciples,”

Knowing that the church possesses the Word of God (1 Tim. 3:15), which is profitable to bring both pastor and local church members to spiritual maturity as it is taught systematically, comprehensively, and accurately, thoroughly equipping all members of the local church to accomplish the task of making disciples (2 Tim. 3:16, 17), **we**

Repent over our sin, our lack of evangelistic fervor, and our failure to teach all things commanded by Jesus Christ to those who follow Christ,

Recommit ourselves to honoring our Savior by fulfilling His Great Commission,

Emphasize the primacy in the church of preaching, teaching, and putting into practice of the whole counsel of God, reflecting our heritage as regular Baptists (Acts 20:26–32),

Urge all undershepherds of Christ to lead their churches to make disciples through personal evangelism, by systematic instruction of the Word of God and by daily obedience to this Word (1 Pet. 5:3; 2 Tim. 2:2),

Exhort overseers (pastors) to lead their churches in evaluation of all present and future local church ministries by the mandate to make disciples (1 Pet. 5:1–4);

Submit to the authority that Jesus Christ possesses in every realm, commanding our faith, love, service, and witness (Matt. 28:18),

Proclaim the purpose of our connection to Christ, to bring about the obedience of faith to God’s glory (Rom. 16:26, 27), and

Recall Christ’s abiding presence as we earnestly, tirelessly, and passionately seek to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:20).