

Biblical Preaching and Teaching

WHEREAS in current preaching and teaching some are so focused on an excessive use of multi-sensory and nonverbal forms of communication, emphasizing experiencing the truth over hearing the truth, that there is a danger of leaving behind truth or even distorting the truth, as appears to be happening in some movements of the Emergent Church; and

Some current homiletics texts and training schools are shifting from an emphasis on the Biblical text to an overemphasis on the Listener (i.e., the New Homiletic), "instead of the preacher bringing the meaning of the text with its applications to the listener, the preacher and listener together create an experience of meaning" (Scott Gibson, "Defining the New Homiletic," *Journal of the Evangelical Homiletics Society*, September 2005) with the result, in some cases, that the use of a Scripture passage is actually considered optional; and

Some have adopted an approach to narrative preaching that gives too much power to story alone and have neglected the actual text or propositional statements of Scripture; and

There is a tendency today for some to react negatively to an older homiletic or expositional approach to preaching and teaching; and there is a tendency for some to gravitate to a more man-centered message or needs-centered message with the possible consequence of not giving precedence to the meaning of the text; and

These trends are moving evangelical preaching away from fidelity to the text;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 74th Annual Conference in Lansing, Michigan, June 27–30, 2006, commit to preach and teach the Bible, giving careful attention to the exegesis of the text and the application of the text to life today; and

To "preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4:2; 2 Corinthians 4:2); to make the Word central to our teaching, preaching, and ministry (Titus 1:9; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17), recognizing that even when the culture turns away from the truth, there is even greater need to preach the truth (2 Timothy 4:3–5), and that when there is a dearth of the Word (Amos 8:11), there are disastrous results; and

To be servants of the Word; and to begin with the text and to preach and teach the subject matter that comes directly from a passage or passages of Scripture.

Lansing, Michigan
June 27–30, 2006