**Resolution Regarding Discipleship**

WHEREAS the Great Commission as Jesus Christ’s command given to His disciples and His first word to the nascent church (Matthew 28:18–20), defining the Great Commission’s essence as “teach all nations” (i.e. make disciples) by going to lost people with the gospel of Christ; by baptizing new believers, identifying them publicly with Christ and other disciples in a local church; and where they can be taught to obey the commandments of Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS many churches are failing to reach their communities with the gospel, contributing to the ignorance of the Bible and God’s only plan of salvation, as well as leaving many vulnerable to cults, compromises and heretical teachings that fail to address the true needs of forgiveness of sins, true righteousness and the blessed hope found only in Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS while we recognize the multiplying cultures and origins now populating the communities around our churches, we cannot, and will not, change the gospel message and God’s plan of salvation in order to please men but confidently give the gospel message to any and all who will hear and believe, and

WHEREAS true disciples are not only believers in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior but are also indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit to be faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8), and

WHEREAS believers are commanded to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18; Colossians 1:28), and

WHEREAS Jesus Christ gave men empowered to serve the church as pastor-teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11–16), enabling believers to fulfill the command of making disciples of Jesus Christ,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches assembled this September 16-18, 2019, at Open Door Baptist Church, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, do hereby acknowledge the weakness of evangelistic fervor resulting from failure to teach and exemplify the commands of Scripture to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we honor our Savior by fulfilling His Great Commission, emphasizing the primacy in the church by preaching, teaching, and putting into practice the whole counsel of God, reflecting our heritage as Regular Baptists (Acts 20:26–32); and we urge all under-shepherds 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 His Word (I Peter 5:3; II Timothy 2:2).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we exhort pastors to review all church ministries to affirm that discipleship is included and promoted in obedience to Jesus Christ’s command (Matthew 28:19-20) and to be thankful for His abiding presence to enable us to do His will by making disciples of all nations.