

Resolution on the Importance of the Church Gathered

WHEREAS many churches have been forced to search for alternative ways to realize their biblical responsibilities, such as regular corporate meetings, worshipping, and teaching the scriptures, as a result of COVID-19 state-imposed restrictions, and

WHEREAS these state-imposed infringements vastly limited both churches and pastors to continue their biblical, God-directed mandate to worship the Lord (Luke 4:8), to faithfully and regularly meet (Hebrews 10:25), and to evangelize (Matthew 28:19, 20), and

WHEREAS churches and pastors wanting to be found faithful in the complete administration of God's Word during these "down" times have Live-Streamed as an immediate and effective way to "have church," and

WHEREAS when the Old Testament (Septuagint) word used for assemble, gather, or congregate is "ekklesia" and is the same word "ekklesia" translated into English "church" in the New Testament literally meaning "called out ones," as a physical assembly of believers, and

WHEREAS the pattern and practice of the church was established by the first church in Acts 2:41-47 where "together" (vs. 44) literally means "in the same place at the same time" helps us to see how integral to church worship is the physical gathering of people in one place, and

WHEREAS the understood custom and practice of the church throughout the New Testament was a corporate physical on-site gathering of believers for the purpose of worshipping the One True God, the proclamation and teaching of God's Word, the carrying out of the great commission, the in "one accord" praying, and the discipling of believers,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, assembled at First Baptist Church Ogden, Boothwyn, PA, on April 12-13, 2021, do hereby commit and reaffirm ourselves to the importance of the physical and regular gathering of the local church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will use the technology of Live-Streaming and the like to temporarily connect with those unable to come physically to church but that we never will seek to replace the physical means and opportunities to gather together in one place physically as one local people of God.

WE FINALLY RESOLVE that we encourage our churches to carry out corporately the biblical mandate to "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us

hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:22-25).