



Resolution on Sexual Abuse Tennessee Baptist Convention Cordova, 2022

WHEREAS, God has created all people in His image, with equal value and dignity (Genesis 1:26–27); and

WHEREAS, An attack against one of God’s image bearers is an attack on God Himself (Genesis 9:6); and

WHEREAS, As men and women made in God’s image, we deplore each and every instance of sexual abuse and repent for failing to cultivate a culture of protection for those in our churches and institutions who have been sexually abused; and

WHEREAS, The *Baptist Faith and Message 2000* states that “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick” (Article XV); and

WHEREAS, As the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC), we have firmly stated our opposition to sexual abuse by appointing a TBC Sexual Abuse Task Force; and

WHEREAS, God calls His people to defend abuse survivors (Psalm 82:4), to stand for justice (Psalm 82:3; Proverbs 31:8–9), and to deliver survivors of sexual abuse from the hands of their oppressors (Proverbs 6:17; 24:10–12); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention, meeting at Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee, on November 15-16, 2022, condemn all forms of sexual abuse and repudiate with a unified voice all sexually abusive behavior; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge abuse survivors to contact authorities, seek protection, care, and support from fellow Christians and civil authorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge our churches and their leadership to develop partnerships within their communities to serve those who have survived sexual abuse; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage all churches to have absolute integrity in their hiring practices, doing due diligence pertaining to sexual abusers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage our network of congregations and institutions to utilize the resources that have been made available by the TBC Sexual Abuse Task Force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we also encourage our network of congregations and institutions to review the safety and care they provide to those who enter their property and attend their ministry events with the intent to better their sexual abuse prevention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we will pray and pursue, as God’s people, the eradication of sexual abuse.