

Separation of Church and State

WHEREAS the government has become increasingly involved in producing legislation that seriously affects religious life and practice in schools, churches, and homes; and

WHEREAS recent legislation was defeated in the state of Connecticut that would have given psychologists and psychiatrists the right to determine whether an adult person should be held in custody if he appeared to have undergone personality changes as a result of religious indoctrination and probate judges the power to force deprogramming for such individuals; and

WHEREAS similar bills are being introduced in other states; and

WHEREAS the first Amendment to the United States Constitution is clear that government will not unnecessarily entangle itself in religion or establish religion;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the messengers of the churches at the 50th Annual Conference of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Winona Lake, Indiana, June 22–26, 1981, call for a clear separation of church and state so that our faith and religious practice may be observed without the restriction or infringement of government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our membership to maintain a watchful eye and a vocal standard in order to defend our freedom of religion.

*Winona Lake, Indiana
June 22–26, 1981*