

Reaffirmation of Separation from Liberalism

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the liberal National Council of Churches (NCC) earlier this year expressed its desire to seek new ties with Catholic and evangelical groups; and

WHEREAS the National Council of Churches is pressured to do so because it is faced with declining financial support and shrinking membership; and

WHEREAS the NCC President, the Rev. Patricia A. McClurg, has been asked to appoint a committee "to engage in mutual exploration with the Roman Catholic church through contacts with the National Conference on Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference, as well as with evangelicals and Pentecostals of possible means to witness together to the unity of Christ's body"; and

WHEREAS the committee is to give its report to the NCC Governing Board in 1991, recommending a process for seeking "common witness" with Roman Catholics, conservative evangelicals, and Pentecostals;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 58th Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on June 26-30, 1989, reaffirm that "we believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy" (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 9-11); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we understand afresh our unique place in history as a separatist association "to raise a standard of Biblical separation from worldliness, modernism and apostasy; to emphasize the Biblical teaching that a breakdown of divinely established lines between Bible believers and apostates is unscriptural and to be a voice repudiating cooperation with movements which attempt to unite true Bible believers and apostates in evangelistic and other cooperative spiritual efforts"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to maintain such ecclesiastical distinctiveness and our pastors to refrain from participation in local ministerial groups that admit a mixture of professing Bible believers and apostates who deny the verities of the faith.

Columbus, Ohio
June 26-30, 1989