

Racial Relations

WHEREAS the Lord, without respect of persons, has redeemed individuals out of "every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Acts 10:34, 35; Revelation 5:9); and

WHEREAS all believers are one in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 3:10, 11) and under the Lord's command to love one another (John 13:35; 1 John 3:14, 23, 24; 4:21); and

WHEREAS the sin of racism, which continues to be present in America's social fabric, infiltrates churches of America; and

WHEREAS racial discrimination has manifested itself in our Association in various forms, including failure at one point to receive Black-American churches into fellowship with the Association;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Annual Conference at Lakeland, Florida, June 22–26, 1996, acknowledge the sin of excluding brethren because of their race, and express our sincerest regret for the offense against those so treated, including those who formed the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where we have individually done wrong, we ask forgiveness from our Black-American brethren, acknowledging that our own spiritual well-being is involved (Colossians 3:12–15); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we rejoice in the twenty-three predominantly black churches currently in our Association, we warmly embrace our Black-American brethren in congregations of like faith and practice, and we encourage their fraternal participation in our Association; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we commend various individuals and churches within our Association and agencies approved by our Association who exemplify the spirit of oneness in Christ that transcends race.

*Lakeland, Florida
June 22–26, 1996*