

## **The Mission of the Church**

WHEREAS an emphasis upon direct evangelism and worldwide missionary effort has characterized the Regular Baptist Fellowship since its inception, and has been viewed as the primary task of the churches; and

WHEREAS the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches assembled in Fort Wayne, Indiana, June 23–27, 1969, desire to maintain this emphasis within our Fellowship;

BE IT RESOLVED that while recognizing social concern as a legitimate Christian responsibility and urging our churches to support generously the GARBC-approved social agencies, we repudiate as completely unscriptural that current emphasis upon the mission of the church which views it as primarily an instrument for social change, and not as the proclaimer of personal redemption through faith in the shed blood of Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reject specifically that emphasis upon the so-called “social gospel” found largely in the National and World Councils of Churches, which emphasis is seen in preoccupation of much of the modern clergy in all kinds of social action programs to the neglect of gospel preaching and which leads to even more radical participation in various demonstrations, protests, and social reconstruction efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we do not accept the concept that the church should be involved in secular politics in order to bring about a hoped-for “new society,” and that we view as heretical the statement of Robert McAfee Brown, noted ecumenicist and Protestant leader, who said, “Politics is the vehicle through which the will of God is done in the world today”; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we believe wholeheartedly that the principal duty of true churches is to obey their Lord Who commanded, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature,” and that we are to continue to proclaim personal redemption through faith in Christ, to baptize and gather into local congregations those who accept the Savior, to teach them the Word of God, and to build them up in the most holy faith.

*June 23–27, 1969*

*Fort Wayne, Indiana*