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RESOLUTION ON COOPERATIVE EVANGELISM

1955 – Berkley, MI

WHEREAS the cause of evangelism is vital to the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, and

WHEREAS the membership of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America includes a number of men who serve in the capacity of evangelists, and

WHEREAS the field of professional evangelism has lately been characterized by abuses which threaten the confidence of Christian men and women, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we deplore the practice of cooperation with apostate ministers of religion in the work of evangelism.

RESOLUTION ON NEW EVANGELICALISM

1956 – Huntington, WV

WHEREAS some have supposed that fundamentalism has failed, or has degenerated to a state of decay and death, and is now replaced by the new evangelicalism, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we reaffirm our belief that independent fundamentalism is historic and dynamic Bible Christianity.

RESOLUTION ON THE WORD OF GOD

1956 – Huntington, WV

WHEREAS dead orthodoxy is dangerous and death-dealing, and a mere form of godliness, void of spiritual power, is to be rejected and repudiated; and

WHEREAS the only true defense of the faith is through surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit operating in individual lives; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the IFCA reemphasize the authority and power of the Word of God, the place and power of prayer and the imperative necessity of heart-searching confession of sin, full yieldedness to Christ, daily study of the Bible, the filling of the Holy Spirit and daily witness for Christ.

RESOLUTION ON NEW EVANGELICALISM

1957 - Los Angeles, CA

WHEREAS many Christian leaders, otherwise true to “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” have in profession and in practice repudiated the historic position of fundamentalism in favor of the neutral position of the “new evangelicalism” with regard to fellowship and cooperation with apostate church leaders, and

WHEREAS the Holy Scriptures set forth as the duty of faithful ministers of the Gospel to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” and

WHEREAS the scriptural injunction to “preach the Word” includes the ministry of reproof, of rebuke and of exhortation “with all longsuffering and doctrine,” as well as the positive proclamation of the Gospel, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we deplore the trend toward compromise with known leaders of liberalism being demonstrated by the evangelical movement, and be it further

RESOLVED that we entreat our brethren in the faith who have espoused the “new evangelicalism” in the spirit of Christian love, to return to the historic position of true Christianity by taking a clear-cut stand against all apostasy in doctrine, and be it further

RESOLVED that we urge all Bible-believing churches and ministers to “earnestly contend for the faith” depending upon the presence and power of the Holy Spirit operating in individual lives to enable us all to stand in Christ-centered unity “until He come.”

RESOLUTION ON FUNDAMENTALISM

1957 - Los Angeles, CA

WHEREAS the term “fundamentalism” has stood historically for an affirmation of faith in the cardinal doctrines of the New Testament and

WHEREAS in circles of neo-orthodoxy and of the “new evangelicalism” it has become a term of reproach to be cast aside, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we reaffirm our convictions in the fundamentals of our Christian faith and in the propriety of the use of the term “fundamentalism” to give expression thereto. As a modernist journal of more than thirty years ago expressed it; “Christianity according to fundamentalism is one religion. Christianity according to modernism is another religion ... the God of the fundamentalist is one God, the God of the modernist is another. The Christ of Fundamentalists is one Christ; the Christ of the modernist is another; the Bible of the fundamentalist is one Bible, the Bible of modernism is another.” “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do” (Ps 11:3). In the light of the above, though recognizing some abuses of the term, we retain with conviction the word “Fundamental” in our organization and name.

RESOLUTION ON NEW EVANGELICALISM

1959 – Columbus, OH

WHEREAS we believe that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America have been called out as a movement by the Spirit of God for such a time as this, as set forth in our stand against apostasy and error in all of its various forms, and

WHEREAS there is at present a new emphasis of interpretation relative to the Word of God being propagated throughout the land, namely, the so-called New Evangelicalism, and

WHEREAS this subtle form of teaching is exerting an influence that has a weakening effect on the vital concepts of the gospel and leads to compromise, be it

RESOLVED that the IFCA meeting for its 30th Annual Convention at Columbus, Ohio, reaffirm its historic position of separation as set forth in the preamble and doctrinal statement of our Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED that we take a vigorous stand against the New Evangelicalism in all of its areas of influence and inclusivism.

RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1961 – Cicero, IL

WHEREAS the leaders of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America advocate an ecumenicity that is unscriptural, and

WHEREAS the leaders of the National Council actively oppose matters vital to our national security, and

WHEREAS the leaders of the National Council repeatedly attack and advocate the abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, and

WHEREAS this body persistently espouses communist inspired causes and left-wing organizations, and

WHEREAS National Council leaders have openly denied the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures and the virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ, His substitutionary sacrifice, and other doctrines vital to the historic Christian faith,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1961 Convention of the IFCA go on record as re-affirming our faith in the spiritual unity of the body of Christ, the church, consisting of all born again believers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the House Un-American Activities Committee and all conscientious efforts necessary to maintain our national security including the exposure of communism wherever it is found, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we believe in and hold essential the doctrines of the historic Christian faith such as the verbal inspiration of the scriptures, the virgin birth, the deity of Jesus Christ, and His substitutionary sacrifice.

RESOLUTION ON ECUMENICAL MERGER AND MISSIONS

1962 - La Mirada, CA

WHEREAS ecumenical mergers have proved to decelerate mission interest, zeal, the recruitment of personnel, and has been a deterrent to the spiritual and numerical growth of missions, and

WHEREAS ecumenical mergers have tended to stifle missionary interest in the local church, and have lessened the missionary witness of the church, and

WHEREAS the "faith" mission boards as supported generally by independent, Bible-believing churches have in more recent years been largely responsible for growth in the missionary passion and concern of the church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 33rd Annual Convention of the IFCA go on record as commending such faith mission boards who in doctrinal position stand with the IFCA, and who in policy and practice adhere to biblical mission, principles, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this convention commend individual churches who have sacrificially given of wealth and youth to the world-wide cause of Christ through such mission boards, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this 33rd Annual Convention of the IFCA go on record as encouraging an even greater mission zeal on the part of the IFCA churches and a strong, resolute policy on the part of mission boards supported by its members, that the inroads of liberalism and inclusivism may not be advanced, but rather a pure and virile gospel be preached.

RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

1963 – Lancaster, PA

WHEREAS the IFCA in its thirty-four year history has never deviated in any sense from its strict adherence to the great fundamentals of the Christian Faith, such as the plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, the Deity of Christ, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection, and His personal, pre-millennial coming, and

WHEREAS there are some theological leaders who, while professing adherence to these truths, have sought to soften the lines of demarcation between those who believe these truths and those who do not, and

WHEREAS such theological positions are identified by such names as Neo-Liberalism, Neo-Orthodoxy and Neo-Evangelicalism,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th Annual Convention of the IFCA, meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, go on record as being opposed to any teaching that in any way would serve to break down lines of Biblical separation from apostasy and false teaching, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our historic position of adherence to the fundamentals of the faith, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the National Executive Committee and the editor of the VOICE magazine to strengthen the content of the VOICE magazine by regularly setting before our constituency the clear Scriptural exposition of our Biblical distinctive of separation, the evidence of the increasing compromise in Christian schools, missions and evangelistic efforts, and the challenge to stand with our Saviour without the ecumenical and New Evangelical camps.

RESOLUTION ON FAITH MISSIONS

1963 – Lancaster, PA

WHEREAS Faith Missions are finding increasing pressures to cooperate with the ecumenical spirit and movement in an unequal yoke with apostate Christians who deny the fundamentals of the faith once delivered to the saints, and

WHEREAS some missions seem to be capitulating to these pressures and following the course of the New Evangelicalism in the compromise spirit resulting in such incidents as the Tokyo Crusade sponsored by World Vision, aid to and cooperation with Roman Catholic personnel in some fields, and the wholehearted support of ecumenical evangelists and evangelism in other areas,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th Annual Convention of the IFCA publicly issue a call for prayer for the leaders and missionaries of Interdenominational Faith Missions as they face many delicate and difficult decisions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we heartily oppose such unscriptural cooperation between Faith Missions and the ecumenical movement, reminding these missions that there is a major difference between cooperation with denominational groups who vary on minor doctrines and compromise with apostates who deny the fundamentals of the faith. We would further remind such Missions that much of their support comes from separated Christians who have taken a stand against religious unbelief, who support Faith Missions because they cannot conscientiously support those groups aligned with World Council of Churches and the ecumenical movement. These Christians have a God-ordained duty to support the same Scriptural position on the mission field that they have supported on the home field, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we issue this admonition in Christian love, not pharisaical rebuke. Let us remind ourselves as well as our missionary brethren, that any method that is inconsistent with the Scriptures on the matter of separation from apostasy is bound to end in eventual engulfment by apostate religion, and will also incur the displeasure of our Heavenly Father, whose reward we are sure to lose by such compromise, regardless of the earthly success.

RESOLUTION ON THE WORD OF GOD

1965 - La Mirada, CA

WHEREAS the current trend away from knowledge of the Bible and recognition of the Bible as the authoritative Word of God has been brought to our attention by several convention speakers, and

WHEREAS the authority of the Bible in faith and practice rests upon its inerrancy and infallibility, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the 35th Anniversary Convention of the IFCA reaffirms its historic conviction that the inspiration of the original writings of the Old and New Testaments was both verbal and plenary as the Holy Spirit moved men to write the very words He wanted written without violating their individual personalities or intellects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demonstrate our recognition of the authority of the Scriptures and our conviction of the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God by living in obedience to the commands of Scripture rightly divided, by diligently studying the Bible continually, and by faithfully expounding the Scriptures in our pulpit ministry that the Holy Spirit may find us useful

in His convicting, regenerating, teaching, and sanctifying work as we hold forth the Word of Life that men be made wise unto salvation and men of God be perfected unto all good works.

RESOLUTION ON REAFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH – GOD IS NOT DEAD

1966 – Berkley, MI

WHEREAS the Independent Fundamental Churches of America wholeheartedly believes in the LIVING GOD – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and in the living Word of God, the Bible, and

WHEREAS the world has once again heard, in recent days, the old philosophy that “God is dead,” which philosophy comes from the apostates of these last days, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that at this 37th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, we reaffirm our intention to contend for the “faith once delivered to the saints” and to trust in and serve, with dedication, the God of heaven and earth Who is eternally alive and Who will save all who receive as Savior, His crucified, risen and ever-living Son, Jesus Christ.

REAFFIRMATION OF OUR HISTORIC DISTINCTIVES AND CONVICTIONS

1967 – Cicero, IL

The Independent Fundamental Churches of America originated with men who desired to effectively stand together in defense and propagation of the faith once delivered unto the saints. We affirm that this is the motivating principle which still holds us together. We recognize that there are other similar groups with which we fellowship in this common purpose. There are some distinctives which we share with them. There are also distinctives which are unique to us.

The distinctives which we share with some others are: complete separation from unscriptural alliances and holding to what we believe are the cardinal doctrines of the Word of God. With some others, we also have in common the independence of the local church and the individual membership of ministers and regionals.

There are, however, distinctives which are unique to us. Our doctrinal statement is the most comprehensive of any group. Reaching not only into the area of truth which could be most widely accepted by believers, we also state in our doctrinal statement the more definite views regarding the imminency of the rapture of the church. In our opinion, this position upon the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church distinguishes us from many other groups.

The Independent Fundamental Churches of America has a self-purging principle. There is the yearly renewal of membership. Over our signatures we annually subscribe to our doctrinal position.

Freedom of the local church as to government, as to the pastor they wish to call, as to its missionary interest, and as to its fellowship with others of like precious faith without restraint are distinctives we hold dear. It is also clearly stated in our Constitution that no member church shall ever have its property placed in jeopardy because of its affiliation with our organization. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.” We enjoy these freedoms because they are of the Lord. In our freedom, we recognize our individual responsibility to stand with others who have similar convictions.

Because of widespread confusion on doctrinal issues and gradual departure from previous positions on the part of individual men, churches, missionary societies, and other Christian institutions, we deem it advisable, at the 1961 Convention, to reaffirm our historic IFCA position on the following:

1. That the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the verbally inspired Word of God.
2. That the Lord Jesus Christ is the incarnate God, virgin born, sinless in nature and practice of life, and that the record of His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension are to be interpreted literally.
3. That the Blood of Jesus Christ is the only God-provided and God-recognized means whereby guilty men and women can be eternally justified in God's sight.
4. That the dispensational view of Biblical interpretation is our approach to the study and exposition of the Word of God.

5. That it is contrary to historic IFCA position for member churches and individual members to participate in ecumenical efforts in the field of evangelism, missionary endeavor on the home or foreign field, or membership in the local council of the National Council of Churches or local Ministers Associations in which ministers who are affiliated with the National Council of Churches hold active membership.
6. That Biblical Christianity consists not only of a right stand for the truth, but also demands a life of moral rectitude. We are obligated before God and men to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. The grace of God teaches us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we are to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
7. That our stand as an organization, as individuals and churches, can never be maintained simply by embracing a right doctrinal position. Our program must be Christ-centered, Christ-honoring, and completely controlled by the Holy Spirit. We must ever recognize that it is the Spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing.

RESOLUTION ON POLICY

1967 – Cicero, IL

WHEREAS the preamble of the National Constitution of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America states the circumstances warranting the founding of our organization and the purposes for which Our movement is intended, and

WHEREAS we recognize that the preamble is something of an historic document, saturated with study and prayer at the time of its formation, dealing with conditions then current, and

WHEREAS we believe that a historic document has significance and value in its wording even at the present time, and

WHEREAS there are certain theological positions identified by certain names and/or organizations today, and that others may arise which may be considered unscriptural, and

WHEREAS the procedure of speaking to unscriptural positions by recent Conventions has been followed by namely:

1. The Resolutions on New-Evangelicalism at Columbus, Ohio in 1959,
2. The Resolution of Reaffirmation of our doctrinal position and policy on ecumenism and compromise at Cicero, Illinois in 1961,
3. The Resolution reaffirming our historic position of adherence to the fundamentals of the faith as well as our opposition to Neo-Liberalism, Neo-Orthodoxy and Neo-Evangelicalism at La Mirada, California in 1962, and

WHEREAS the leadership of the IFCA as expressed by the National Executive Committee has spoken to trends and issues, as in particular, at the Mid-year meeting at Racine, Wisconsin in 1963 when a document written above the individual signatures of our Executive Committee members was sent to our entire constituency giving initiative to and calling for support of a position against compromise,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the preamble of the National Constitution be allowed to stand intact in its historic significance, unamended, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IFCA through its authorized committees, study theological positions with which we do not agree and in which we see error, and to speak to them by means of resolutions adopted by succeeding Conventions as the need may arise, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions adopted, past and future, speaking to these foregoing issues, be compiled into some type of an accumulative document that may be commonly considered a “policy book.”

RESOLUTION ON RACE

1970 – Lancaster, PA

WHEREAS the church, the body of Christ, formed by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit, is composed of all believers in Jesus Christ as Savior who were formerly Jews and Gentiles, bond and free,

are now made one new man where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, and

WHEREAS faith in Christ is the simple requirement for one to be placed into this invisible union of all believers excluding such human considerations as languages, material possessions, social status, cultural background, educational attainment, human ancestry or race, and

WHEREAS God who created the first man from whom all men are descended is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the delegates to the 41st Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, hereby declare that there are no racial barriers to membership in the IFCA and that we invite into this fellowship those of like precious faith without any distinction as to race, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express to all who read or hear these words that we are sincere in expressing our love for all the family of God seeking by His grace to manifest that love without hypocrisy.

RESOLUTION ON PARAPHRASES

1971 - Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS paraphrases of the Holy Scriptures are widely distributed in our day; and

WHEREAS paraphrases often obscure the actual meaning of many original language texts and render some doctrinal changes; and

WHEREAS a paraphrase should always serve as a kind of commentary and is not to be mistaken for the Word of God; and

WHEREAS a paraphrase is apt to slur over the intent of the Received Text and thus threaten our historic position of adherence to the doctrine of the verbal plenary inspiration of the Scriptures

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the delegates of the 42nd Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hereby go on record as alerting our entire constituency to the dangers of considering paraphrases as accurate literal translations of the Holy Scriptures.

A RESOLUTION ON THE "NEW ENGLISH BIBLE"

WHEREAS a joint committee of representatives of the main Protestant denominations of the British Isles has presented a translation known as the "New English Bible"; and

WHEREAS the NEB translators claim its authority is from the churches and not the Holy Scriptures themselves; and

WHEREAS the NEB translators' work is not a faithful rendering of the best available Greek texts in the speech of our time; and

WHEREAS the NEB translators varied the translation to please everyone; and

WHEREAS the NEB translators have tampered with texts revealing Jesus Christ and others; and

WHEREAS the NEB translators' work is not a faithful translation but a false interpretation; and

WHEREAS the NEB is sympathetic to Romanism in its translation of certain texts and by their inclusion of the Apocryphal books.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the delegates of the 42nd Annual Convention of the IFCA meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hereby go on record as alerting our entire constituency to the dangers in the usage of the Bible translation, "The New English Bible" as an unreliable translation of the Holy Scriptures.

A RESOLUTION ON "GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN"

WHEREAS the strategy of the ecumenical movement is to promote a "Common Bible"; and

WHEREAS a flood of new translations of the Holy Scriptures in the English language are coming forth; and

WHEREAS the American Bible Society has prepared a version of the New Testament called "Good News For Modern Man" or "Today's English Version" translated by Dr. Robert G. Bratcher; and

WHEREAS "Good News For Modern Man" in various passages obscured Christ's miraculous birth and deity, abolishes the Judgment Seat of Christ, substitutes references to the atoning blood of the Redeemer with the word "death", translates various texts incorrectly; and

WHEREAS its translator charges that part of the Bible is sub-Christian, that if we build our faith wholly on the Bible, then we are building our faith on shifting sand

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the delegates of the 42nd Annual Convention of the IFCA meeting in Grand Rapids, hereby go on record as alerting our entire constituency to the dangers in the usage of the Bible translation "Good News For Modern Man" as an unreliable translation of the Holy Scriptures.

RESOLUTION ON ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA

1973 - Winona Lake, IN

WHEREAS God in His infallible Word, the Bible, places a very high value on human life as a gift from God; and

WHEREAS the wanton taking of human life is condemned as a capital crime worthy of punishment by civil law; and

WHEREAS the Bible, in Psalm 139:13, clearly indicates that God sees life as beginning in the womb, saying, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb"; and

WHEREAS the Bible reveals the existence of personality in a babe yet in his mother's womb when Elizabeth testified ... "the babe leaped in my womb for joy" (Lk 1:44b).

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Convention at Winona Lake, Indiana, go on record as supporting the recognition of the rights of unborn infants before the Lord and under the Constitution of the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Congress and our state legislatures to pass appropriate legislation to protect the rights of the unborn, and the aged and infirm; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we recommend to our constituencies that they inform their state and national representatives of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ON AUTHORITY

1974 - Schroon Lake, NY

Since Scripture is of itself an objective standard, and experience of events is a subjective standard, the delegates of the 45th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Schroon Lake, New York, reaffirm our position that the Scripture is the sole authority in matters of faith and practice, and reject any other authority, such as that based on experience.

RESOLUTION ON THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

1975 - Portland, OR

WHEREAS there is widespread manifestation of spiritual error demonstrated in the charismatic movement which is being used as an ecumenical tool with disregard for doctrinal distinctives; and

WHEREAS the charismatic movement is based upon the seeking for and the alleged experiencing of sign gifts; and

WHEREAS the movement is a divisive element in Bible believing churches today;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the 46th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Portland, Oregon, hereby go on record as reaffirming our belief that the sign gifts have ceased according to the Scriptures and warning our

churches of this danger and encouraging the scriptural teaching on the Spirit filled life and the exercise of spiritual gifts.

RESOLUTION ON THE PRIMACY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

1975 – Portland, OR

WHEREAS the local church is uniformly set forth in the New Testament as the visible and organized expression of the universal church, and is established by God as the primary agency in God's present program; and,

WHEREAS there is presently a pervasive departure from New Testament standards regarding the nature, purpose, structure, and ministry of many local churches today; and,

WHEREAS some contemporary religious movements demonstrate a disaffection for the local church as a viable and scripturally essential institution, and seek either by precept or practice to nullify, ignore, or destroy it;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America Convention meeting in Portland, Oregon, reaffirms its historic commitment to the primacy of the local church in this present age, and that we firmly express our conviction that the planting, nurturing, and development of vital New Testament churches, both overseas and in North America, should be a primary concern of biblical Christians.

RESOLUTION ON ORDINATION OF WOMEN

1975 – Portland, OR

WHEREAS our society is witnessing an unbiblical position ascribed to women; and

WHEREAS the Scriptures clearly teach that in Christ there is no distinction between the man and the woman, and that they share equally all spiritual blessings in the family of God as heirs of the grace of life; and

WHEREAS the Scriptures further teach that within the family of God a certain order is established in which the woman is not to exercise authority over the man,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this 46th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America assembled at Portland, Oregon, go on record and communicate to our churches that the Bible teaches that male members only be considered as candidates for ordination to the Ministry of the Gospel.

RESOLUTION ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY

1976 – York, PA

WHEREAS the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy has suddenly received nationwide attention through the publication of a book "The Battle for the Bible" by Harold Lindsell, and

WHEREAS there is a widespread departure from the doctrine of Biblical inerrancy, and

WHEREAS the authority of the Bible in faith and practice rests upon its inerrancy and infallibility, and

WHEREAS our doctrinal statement clearly states, "We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2Ti 3:16, 17; 2Pe 1:20, 21; Mt 5:18; Jn 16:12, 13)."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 47th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in York, Pennsylvania, hereby reaffirm our position taken by our 36th Annual Convention in 1965 and printed in the Resolution Book as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we demonstrate our recognition of the authority of the Scriptures and our conviction of the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God by living in obedience to the commands of Scripture rightly divided, by diligently studying the Bible continually, and by faithfully expounding the Scriptures in our pulpit ministry that the Holy Spirit may find us useful in His convicting, regenerating, teaching and sanctifying work as we hold forth the Word of Life that men be made wise unto salvation and men of God be perfected unto all good works.”

RESOLUTION ON BIBLICAL SEPARATION

1977 - Winona Lake, IN

WHEREAS there have been widespread current trends in evangelism on a national level which invite cooperation with non-fundamental persons and organizations and encourage participation in alignments and practices inconsistent with our doctrinal stand and separatist conviction; and

WHEREAS the Constitution and By-Laws of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America clearly state that Ecumenical Evangelism and New Evangelicalism are movements contrary to faith in that they seek to promote the Gospel by bringing fundamentalists into an unequal yoke with theological liberals and/or Roman Catholics and other divergent groups; and

WHEREAS these efforts are “further characterized by an attempt to accommodate Biblical Christianity and make it acceptable to the modern mind,”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates of the 48th annual convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting at Winona Lake, Indiana, inform and warn our constituency of churches and organizations, that participation in the trends described above and continuation in the same is out of harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America and inconsistent with the standards for membership in this organization.

RESOLUTION ON HOMOSEXUALITY

1977 - Winona Lake, IN

WHEREAS there is in our nation a growing movement of homosexuals which is demanding recognition and rights of respectability; and

WHEREAS there are those in places of political and religious power who are willing to yield to these demands, both for social and economic benefits and for places of leadership and ordination in church circles;

and

WHEREAS the Bible is so very clear that homosexuality is a gross and grievous sin, in such passages as: Ro 1:26, 27, “For this cause God gave them up to vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature; and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet,” and in such other passages as: ICo 6:9, 10; 2Pe 2:6, 7; and Jude 7, each of which refers to the sin of homosexuality; and

WHEREAS God has declared His blessing on the nation that is righteous and His judgment on the nation that is evil; and

WHEREAS nations have fallen before because of such sins as the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah fell;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in annual convention at Winona Lake, Indiana, go on record as being opposed to any move that would recognize homosexuality as anything but gross sin which will bring the judgment of God as it has in the past; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while we view this as gross sin, we view those who are involved in homosexuality as objects of the grace of God to be reached and won from that and other sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Saviour of sinners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches be urged to pray for and reach by scriptural methods those caught by Satan in this sin, saving "with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh," (Jude 23); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that members of our movement see that copies of this resolution be sent to national, regional, and local leaders, and the media.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE NATIONHOOD OF ISRAEL

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS, the nation of Israel, by an act of divine providence was allowed to come into being again as a sovereign political entity on May 14, 1948, thus restoring a political voice that had been silenced through the centuries, and

WHEREAS we believe that the Scriptures teach that God has a future plan for the nation of Israel;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates of the 49th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at Estes Park, Colorado, go on record supporting Israel's right to exist as a nation, and that we congratulate her on the 30th anniversary of her sovereignty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps 122:6); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Yitzakh Navon.

RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY AND THE RIGHT TO LIVE

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS each human being from conception through the natural continuum of life has value and dignity in the eyes of God and before the law, and the killing of innocent human beings will bring the Judgment of God upon our society, (Ex 20:13); and

WHEREAS a mother and her pre-born child have a right to live, and all reasonable efforts and ordinary means should be used to save the lives of either or both persons when endangered;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the 49th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at Estes Park, Colorado, go on record as urging the Congress to enact and the States to ratify a mandatory Human Life Amendment to the Constitution to protect all persons, born and pre-born, from the time of conception; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, and that the constituency of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America be urged to forward copies of this resolution to their respective state legislators.

RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY AND CHILD REARING

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS child-rearing is a biblical, God given responsibility and privilege of parents, not given to any other segment of our society; and

WHEREAS there is a growing philosophy in our country that the Federal Government control the early child development programs, which control would empower the government to select the methods by which young lives are molded;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at Estes Park, Colorado, go on record that pre-school child development programs should be controlled by the private sector, giving parents freedom of choice over the physical and philosophical environment of their children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, and that the constituency of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America be urged to forward copies of this resolution to their respective Congressmen.

RESOLUTION ON THE FAMILY AND DIVORCE

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS God has set forth the family as the basic unit of society to preserve and maintain the social order, and to propagate the race; and

WHEREAS the marriage relationship pictures the eternal union of Christ and His church, and that such a union between man and woman is ordained by God to endure for life; and

WHEREAS we are experiencing in our society Satanic forces fracturing and destroying our family structure through easy divorces and through forming unscriptural relationships of family living;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates of the 49th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at Estes Park, Colorado, go on record as being opposed to the unholy substitutes for marriage presently being practiced in our society, such as "trial marriages", "no-fault divorces", and living together in no marriage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America encourage all pastors of our movement to teach and instruct their constituencies concerning the biblical order and sanctity of marriage and the evils of divorce, and that in all these matters we may seek by God's grace to be scripturally correct.

RESOLUTION ON THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS existing Federal laws guarantee equality of opportunity important areas such as employment, education, and credit; and

WHEREAS a strict constitutional rule requiring equality between the sexes at all times does not respect the difference between men and women in their childbearing function and their physical strength; and

WHEREAS the proposed Equal Rights Amendment would transfer enormous new powers from the States to the Federal Government;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates of the 49th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting at Estes Park, Colorado, go on record as being opposed to the ratification, as well as any time extension for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, and the constituency of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America be urged to forward copies of this resolution to their respective congressmen.

RESOLUTION ON CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

1978 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS the Word of God teaches that the home is the basic unit of society, and that God has entrusted to parents the responsibility for the education of their children (Dt 6:6,7; Eph 6:4); and

WHEREAS state-controlled education has become increasingly humanistic and otherwise contrary to a Scriptural philosophy of life; and

WHEREAS the Christian school movement seeks to restore the cooperation between the church and the home in education as was the pattern at the time of the founding of our country;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at its 49th annual convention in Estes Park, Colorado, urge its constituency to support, by whatever means and abilities God has given them, the Christian school movement in its effort to establish a biblical base of education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we strongly protest the encroachment upon this movement by government agencies which seek to hinder and unnecessarily control its ministry.

RESOLUTION ON WORLDLINESS

1979 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS the Word of God instructs believers that we be not conformed to this world, but that we be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Ro 12:2); and

WHEREAS we recognize that the lives of Christians are adversely affected through the influence of the press, radio, and television programming;

WHEREAS our Christian homes, marriages, testimony, influence, godly living and spiritual effectiveness are being undermined through our acquiescence to the world-system;

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 50th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at Schroon Lake, New York, reaffirm our historic commitment to separated Christian living.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we urge our constituency to shun the love of the world (1Jn 2:15-17), seek a Biblical philosophy by the renewing of our minds (Ro 12:2), and perfect holiness in the fear of God (2Co 7:1).

RESOLUTION ON SCRIPTURE CONDENSATION BY READER'S DIGEST

1979 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS the Bible, God's inspired, inerrant Word has been forever settled and sovereignly preserved through the centuries (Ps 119:89 -"Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven;" 2Ti 3:16-17-"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works;" (2Pe 1:20,21 --"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit;"), and

WHEREAS we recognize the seriousness of God's warning against taking from or adding to the Holy Bible (Rev 22:18,19 -"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."), and

WHEREAS there is a move today by Reader's Digest to condense this record that God has so wonderfully given to us;

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 50th Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting at Schroon Lake, New York, go on record that we not only reaffirm our stand with respect to the entire Word of God, but also oppose map such effort to condense the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Scriptures, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Reader's Digest Condensed Book Division, Mr. Herbert Lieberman, Executive Editor, Pleasantville, New York 10570.

RESOLUTION ON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

1979 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS on the twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1930, the Founding Fathers of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America adopted a comprehensive statement of Faith and Doctrine based upon the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS through the ensuing years and by God's enabling grace the Independent Fundamental Churches of America continued to adhere to the original statement of doctrine and when needed strengthened the same; and

WHEREAS on the twenty-eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord, 1979, the members and delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America are assembled in its Annual Convention at the beginning of its Jubilee Year at Schroon Lake, New York;

WE DO THEREFORE on this day, reaffirm our faith in and practice of the original Statement of Faith and Doctrine adopted by our Founding Fathers and; further

WE DO THEREFORE on this day, affirm our purpose to preserve these great doctrines of the Christian Faith as set forth in the Holy Scriptures, and to practice the same, God willing, until Jesus comes.

In subscription to the above declaration and in complete agreement, thereto, we have hereafter affixed our signatures as Officers, Members, and Delegates to the 50th Annual Convention assembled at Schroon Lake, New York.

RESOLUTION ON CHURCH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1979 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS there is a legitimate, wide-spread concern in the movement for chronic indifference to the responsibilities of church and organizational membership and participation, and

WHEREAS there is a need for provision by which our churches and organizations shall be held accountable to their commitments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy be established for the purpose of implementing the constitution:

“CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL CENSUS FORM, INCLUDING A PROVISION FOR AFFIRMATION OF DOCTRINE AND POLICIES. NON-REPORTING CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS SHALL BE REFERRED *TO REGIONAL 'CHURCH-CARE' ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR INVESTIGATION AND COUNSEL. AFTER TWO YEARS WITHOUT A CENSUS RETURN AND AFTER A REGIONAL REPORT TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE STATUS OF THE CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION, SUCH CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION MAY BE DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY OFFICIAL CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION.”

RESOLUTION ON INTOXICATING BEVERAGES

1980 - Green Lake, WI

WHEREAS righteous and godly men such as Noah (Ge 9:20,21) and Lot (Ge 19:32-38) brought sorrow and shame to their homes and the world through intoxication with wine and strong drink, and

WHEREAS no priest was to enter the temple of God who had drunk wine or strong drink “that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Lev 10:10), and these Old Testament patterns are examples for us (I Co 10:6-11), and are profitable for correction, for instruction in righteousness (2Ti 3:16), and

WHEREAS (Pr 23:20-35) lists the harmful effects of drinking as poverty, woe, sorrow, contentions, babblings, wounds without cause, redness of eyes, poison, immorality, perverse talking, death, numbness, fights, sleep and alcoholism, and

WHEREAS Jesus said it is better to have a millstone hung around the neck and be drowned in the depth of the sea than to offend one of our youth (Mt 18:6), and alcoholic drinking by adults is a primary offense in giving our youth a supposed just reason for drinking, and

WHEREAS the abstaining entirely from the drinking of alcoholic beverages is the only certain way to avoid numerous sins and sorrows, and

WHEREAS Christian believers should be willing to say with the Apostle Paul that “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak” (Ro 14:21),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Pastors and the Delegates of the churches of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Annual Convention, at Green Lake, Wisconsin, reaffirm the position of total abstinence from alcoholic beverages, which position, we believe, to be both specifically and in principle, a sound Biblical position.

RESOLUTION ON LIBERATION THEOLOGY

1981 – Carmichael, CA

WHEREAS the Latin American theology of liberation has been spawned by some groups of Protestant liberalism and certain orders within the Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS the liberal Protestant view of social concern and the Roman Catholic emphasis on reform, and the stimulation of such by the mass media come together in the “theology of liberation”; and

WHEREAS the message of God's redeeming grace and salvation has been contradicted by humanism and revolutionary Marxism in Latin America; and

WHEREAS the influences of such erroneous doctrinal concepts are incompatible with true biblical theology; and

WHEREAS the social, economic and political dimensions of liberation theology are out of harmony with the Word of God and are neither liberating nor theological,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in convention in Carmichael, California, go on record as repudiating liberation theology; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our constituency, missionaries, and Christian workers to renew their commitment to vigorously proclaim without compromise the Gospel message of redeeming grace which alone can bring true liberation from sin and Satan.

RESOLUTION ON CULTURAL CONTEXTUALIZATION OF SCRIPTURAL COMMANDS

1982 - Estes Park, CO

WHEREAS recent emphasis placed on the study of cultural anthropology in missionary preparation has led to the tendency of some to regard the Biblical practices of American fundamental churches as the product of American culture, and

WHEREAS some missionaries, using the ambiguous term “contextualization,” have felt free to reinterpret the Word of God to use practices they claim are “cultural equivalents” of plain Biblical commands, and

WHEREAS such false practices include waterless “baptism,” Friday or Saturday as the day of worship, “christianizing” pagan worship forms, segregating believers from differing ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds into separate congregations; all of which we understand to be clearly contrary to the Word of God, and

WHEREAS some of these missionaries, while members of missions with long and glorious records of service to our Lord Jesus, have published their advocacy of these practices in books and periodicals such as “Missiology” and other places, and

WHEREAS some of their missions have IFCA men on their councils of reference and governing boards:

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 53rd National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Estes Park, Colorado, do raise an alarm to all those concerned with the purity and authority of God's Word, warning that this movement is contrary to the "Faith once delivered," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Missions Committee of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America to carefully examine any articles published by missionaries of independent faith missions, so as to document the penetration such views have had into missions we support, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we urge all our IFCA members and member churches to use this information to help determine our ongoing relationship to such groups, and that we especially urge all our men who serve on governing boards and councils of reference of missions to be sure that they do not lend the appearance of support to such views and practices.

RESOLUTION ON BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

1983 – Holland, MI

WHEREAS there is today considerable controversy concerning translations of the Holy Scriptures; and

WHEREAS this controversy has divided genuine brethren who have equal regard for the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures; and

WHEREAS the IFCA Statement of Faith and Doctrine in our Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, reads as follows: "(1) We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2Ti 3:16,17; 2Pe 1:20-21; Mt 5:18; Jn 16:12-13)"; and

WHEREAS this Convention recognizes that historically the IFCA has maintained latitude and liberty of conviction in the use of translations; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 54th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Holland, Michigan, while recognizing the historic prominence of the King James Version, also recognize the freedom of individual believers to seek God's guidance in the use of any of the more contemporary translations of the Holy Bible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates sound a strong warning against using the translations and paraphrases which clearly depart from accuracy (Pr 30:5-6); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our brethren to give careful study to this issue of translations without judging the motives of any who are of like precious faith; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our brothers to take heed to themselves in the present controversy over translations, and to be loving, kind, gracious, honest and fair in the presentation of their personal convictions. (Eph 4:29-5:2)

RESOLUTION ON MISSIONS STEWARDSHIP

1983 – Holland, MI

WHEREAS the current economic climate poses the challenge of managing wisely the ever-increasing costs of extension ministries at home and abroad, and

WHEREAS the resources of our local churches are a spiritual stewardship deserving careful investment to advance the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ in keeping with the convictions of our movement,

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 54th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Holland, Michigan, that leaders of mission organizations in harmony and sympathy with the convictions of our movement be encouraged to consider cooperation

to affect administrative efficiency, candidate training, joint field endeavor and shared auxiliary ministries, provided this cooperation is within the framework of the mutual convictions of our movement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that missions compatible with each other and with our movement be encouraged to study the feasibility of mergers for the sake of good stewardship, effectiveness and growth.

RESOLUTION ON ORGANIZATIONAL COMPATIBILITY

1983 – Holland, MI

WHEREAS it is not uncommon today for missions agencies to have doctrinal beliefs and practices which go beyond those stated in their publications and promotional literature, and

WHEREAS in some cases, these hidden doctrinal beliefs and practices compromise and dilute the firm biblical convictions of our movement, and

WHEREAS they solicit the endorsement and support of IFCA churches, and recruit our people as workers, and

WHEREAS God instructs us to be good stewards of our resources, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 54th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Holland, Michigan, urge IFCA pastors and other leaders of sending churches to develop and apply scriptural and objective criteria by which to measure the compatibility of the organizations and individuals with the convictions of the sending churches for extending their outreach, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such criteria take into account stated and unstated doctrines, practices, policies and goals, thereby assuring the planting and development of independent fundamental churches around the world.

RESOLUTION ON APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN

1984 – Limerick, PA

WHEREAS on November 22, 1983, President Reagan signed the State Department Authorization Bill which included an amendment lifting the 1867 prohibition against the expenditure of funds to support diplomatic relations with the Vatican, and

WHEREAS this radical change in a longstanding national policy was accomplished without public discussion or public hearings, giving the appearance of the circumvention of the democratic process of full debate and careful scrutiny of constitutional issues, and

WHEREAS diplomatic ties with the Vatican run counter to the fundamental United States concept of the separation of church and state, because this recognition violates the principle of equality of all religions, churches and headquarters of churches before the law and government, and is discriminatory toward churches having no such diplomatic ties, and

WHEREAS Vatican City is really an artificial state or a token state serving as the hub of Catholicism possessing just over 100 acres of land and embracing only a thousand or so in population, being a mini-city serving as the headquarters of an international church, and

WHEREAS it is impossible in practice to clearly differentiate between the Pope as head of the Roman Catholic Church, and as the head of Vatican City as a small city-state,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the delegates to the 55th National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in Limerick, Pennsylvania, that protest of this diplomatic recognition of the Vatican be addressed to the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, to the Secretary of State of the United States, George Schultz, and to the Religious News Service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Reagan, respectfully requesting that this undesirable recognition be withdrawn and no person be sent to serve as United States Ambassador to the Vatican.

RESOLUTION ON ABORTION AND RIGHT TO LIFE

1984 – Limerick, PA

WHEREAS there is deep concern within our constituency regarding the insidious trend in our country toward a human holocaust through the flagrant practice of legalized abortion on demand, and

WHEREAS the God-fearing framers of the Declaration of Independence believed that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and

WHEREAS the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America mandates the protection by law of all human life, and

WHEREAS this shameful practice of abortion is directly in defiance of God, in whose image man was made and in whose sight human life is precious (Ge 9:6; Ex 21:22,23; Ps 72:14; 116:15; Ac 17:28,29; Jas 3:9), and

WHEREAS the Bible affirms that the sex and personality traits of the unborn fetus are established at conception, and it is at that time that the human life process begins (Job 3:3; Ps 139; Lk 1:15, 41, 44),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting at their 55th Annual Convention in Limerick, Pennsylvania, go on record as being strongly opposed to the shameful practice of abortion on demand and to the God-dishonoring apathy shown in allowing it to be perpetrated in a land that is such a debtor to God's grace, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded by each of our concerned pastors to the appropriate congressmen and women who represent districts in which our churches minister, encouraging any legislation fostering the right to life, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America congratulate and encourage President Ronald Reagan in his personal stand opposing abortion.

CHILD ABUSE AND BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE

1985 – Winona Lake, IN

WHEREAS there is a great emphasis being placed on the problem of child abuse; and,

WHEREAS the freedom of parents to discipline their children within reasonable and biblical limits must not be confused with the real and tragic issue of child abuse; and,

WHEREAS the definition and application of the term child abuse is a matter of subjective opinion; and,

WHEREAS it is a matter of biblical teaching that parents are commanded by God to discipline their children, (Pr 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15; Heb 12:5-11) within reasonable limits (Eph 6:4; Col 3:21);

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the Fifty-sixth National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, that we vigorously oppose the physical, verbal, and emotional abuse of children; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the right and responsibility of parents to discipline their own children biblically, lovingly and for the right motives; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage the members of our fellowship to teach and encourage their people the Scriptural practice of discipline.

CHRISTIAN LEADER'S CONDUCT

1987 – Ft. Collins, CO

WHEREAS certain prominent Christian leaders, by their moral, deceptive and unethical conduct, have recently dishonored our Lord Jesus Christ and have brought reproach upon faithful Christians; and,

WHEREAS this sinful behavior has misled and disheartened many believers in their spiritual walk; and,

WHEREAS these erring leaders have encouraged the enemies of Christ in their blasphemy against the Holy Spirit and their ridicule of fundamental Christians;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, publicly condemn this unchristian and unbiblical conduct; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we reaffirm our individual commitment to the sacred responsibility of our high calling in Christ Jesus and to the faithful stewardship of ministry for our Lord.

FUNDAMENTALISM

1987 – Ft. Collins, CO

WHEREAS the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, since its inception in 1930, has adhered to the great fundamentals of the Christian faith, such as the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Christ, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection, and His personal pre-millennial return; and,

WHEREAS adherence to these basics is believed to reflect most accurately the Biblical Christianity of the New Testament era; and,

WHEREAS Webster's dictionary defines fundamentalism as a "movement in 20th Century Protestantism emphasizing the literally interpreted Bible as fundamental to Christian life and teaching"; and,

WHEREAS historic fundamentalism carefully distinguished itself from theological inclusivism with liberalism, neo-evangelicalism and other divergent theological expressions; and,

WHEREAS the term "fundamentalism" is now being used to include and describe many religious groups such as charismatics, Pentecostals, cults and other groups who do not fit the definition of historic fundamentalism, with whom the Independent Fundamental Churches of America has no association or identification; and,

WHEREAS many in the secular and religious news media, and some in positions of religious influence have confused the use of this term "fundamental" and its variations, often casting derogatory implications;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, reaffirm our commitment to the historic and biblical fundamentals of the Christian faith as basic to Christian life and teaching; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge media representatives and religious leaders to adhere to the definition of historic "fundamentalism" in their use of the word; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to the media networks and wire services by our National Executive Committee.

AIDS-ABSTINENCE-CONDOMS-SAFE SEX

1988 – Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has reached epidemic proportions; and,

WHEREAS it has not been definitively proven that prophylactics (condoms), can provide anything approaching adequate protection against the sexual transmission of AIDS; and

WHEREAS prophylactics, if they were proven effective in the prevention of the sexual transmission of AIDS, offer no solution to the moral problem of premarital and extramarital sex (1Co 6:15-20; Ge 2:24); and,

WHEREAS safe sex, sex which does not put the participants at risk, cannot be guaranteed or realistically expected apart from chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, while encouraging continued medical research to provide the best possible treatment for the AIDS victims, go on record as seeing chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage as being the only true solution to the problem, regardless of how medically effective other means may be; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will publicly declare this message from our pulpits and other available sources of dispensing information; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is not to be construed as a statement or position paper against the AIDS victim; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches be urged to pray for and minister (by methods that are Scriptural and practical) to those who have fallen victim to the epidemic realizing that, whether their infection is the result of personal sin or innocent exposure, they are the objects of the grace of God to be reached and won to the Lord Jesus Christ and/or disciplined to maturity in the faith (Mk 16:15; Mt 28:19,20); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded along with a letter of encouragement and support from our National Executive Director to the Surgeon General of the United States of America, Dr. C. Everett Koop.

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

1988 – Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS the New Age Movement is a false philosophy which is becoming increasingly popular and renown in its teachings; and,

WHEREAS the attraction to the New Age is the belief that man is an evolving god destined to participate in a Cosmic Consciousness which will culminate in a new order of religious unity and world government; and,

WHEREAS it teaches there is a coming world leader who will not be a “christ” as those who preceded him, but will be the “Christ”; and,

WHEREAS the New Age Movement denies the authority of the Bible, the existence of sin, and the need for personal salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ; and,

WHEREAS it advocates the inclusion of virtually all non-Christian thought, and is hostile to the true Church of Jesus Christ as seen in the targeting of children for conversion to its precepts through cartoon, toys, music, and secular humanistic teachings in many public schools;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the delegates of the Fifty-ninth National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, that we take great care in being alert to the purposes of the New Age Movement which seeks to bring upon all men a new order of religious unity and world government; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm our adherence to the historic belief regarding the fundamentals of the Christian faith; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we denounce the teachings of the New Age Movement.

THE HOMELESS

1988 – Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS the Scriptures teach that the poor shall always be with us, needing food, clothing, shelter, and further necessities of life; and,

WHEREAS God has charged His people with the responsibility to help provide for the needs of the poor (Gal 2:10), and to do good unto all men (Gal 6:10); and,

WHEREAS the biblical purpose of the Church is to worship God, edify the believer, and evangelize the lost;

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the Fifty-ninth National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, that our constituency recognize and be sensitive to the needs of the poor and homeless; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to identifying and meeting legitimate needs in a responsible way, thus fulfilling the Scriptural directives mentioned above; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that while fulfilling these biblical responsibilities, we will maintain a clear focus upon the primary purpose of the Church which is worship, edification, and evangelism.

MISSIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

1990 – Sun Valley, CA

WHEREAS the Independent Fundamental Churches of America has consistently had a strong emphasis on obedience to the Great Commission; and,

WHEREAS the tremendous political changes in Eastern Europe have provided greater opportunities to be obedient to the Great Commission in that area of the world; and,

WHEREAS it is unknown how long this open door of opportunity will remain open; and,

WHEREAS the church at Jerusalem provided an example by sending one of its own leaders to assist in the spiritual growth of the Christians in Antioch;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the Sixty-first National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, urge our churches to pray that the Lord would raise up many laborers to enter this harvest field; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the churches to become familiar with the mission agencies which are in agreement with our doctrinal statement and position on biblical separation and are sending missionaries to this part of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to prayerfully and sacrificially support these mission agencies; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to prayerfully consider sending part of their own leadership team to make disciples in these countries.

CHURCHES FOR ALL PEOPLES

1990 – Sun Valley, CA

WHEREAS the moral and spiritual values of our society are such that “America is not a Christian nation, but a mission field” (Charles L. Chaney, *Church Planting at the End of the 20th Century*, Tyndale House, Wheaton.); and,

WHEREAS the population of the United States is growing at the rate of 4.5 million people each year (Larry L. Rose and C. Kirk Hadaway, *An Urban World*, Broadman Press, Nashville) and is increasingly becoming an ethnic society, with population growth primarily among non-whites, so that “white Americans *may* become a minority group by the middle of the 21st Century” (*Time*, April 9, 1990, pp. 28-35); and,

WHEREAS “the browning of America” will alter everything in our society, from politics and education to industry, values and culture (*Ibid.*); and,

WHEREAS the Word of God clearly teaches that the only answer to the needs of the people in any society, race, or culture is personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 3:16; Ac 4:12; Is 45:22; Ro 10:9-10; Tit 2:11-13); and,

WHEREAS the biblical mandate to the church is “preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15), and “to disciple all the nations” (Mt 28:19-20), and to plant churches for all peoples (Ac 11,13,15,20);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, meeting in session at the Sixty-first Annual National Convention, do hereby recognize America as a mission field where all peoples are precious in God’s sight, thus committing ourselves to increased efforts of evangelism and soul winning; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each member and church be encouraged to prayerfully target areas for ethnic outreach and ministry; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we purpose by the grace of God to plant and to establish fundamental, biblically balanced churches in every area – rural, suburban, and urban, and for all peoples, all cultures, and all languages; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that each individual and each church be urged to involvement in the ministries of church planting and church growth in their area in every way possible.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

1991 – Wichita, KS

WHEREAS God has instituted human government for the orderliness of society (Ro 13:1-7); and,

WHEREAS The Word of God admonishes Christians to submit to the authority of civil government (1Pe 2:13-17), unless that government requires direct disobedience to the Word of God (Da 6:4-15; Ac 4:19-20); and,

WHEREAS God in His Providence has raised up the American Constitutional Republic of which many of us are citizens with all its responsibilities and privileges; and,

WHEREAS as residents of this country we have a rich heritage of free speech and assembly as expressed the first amendment to the Bill of Rights; and,

WHEREAS some within our country have advocated the willful breaking of the law in order to change domestic foreign policy to the extent that some feel this is a legitimate form of protest; and,

WHEREAS issues of Christian concern such as the desire to stop abortion on demand, to stand against homosexuality, and to inhibit the spread of pornography may necessitate legitimate, lawful demonstrations; and,

WHEREAS believers are to be witnesses of the grace of God to a lost world;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the Sixty-second National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, go on record as encouraging Christians to submit to and pray for civil government as ordained by God (1Ti 2:1-2); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage every believer to be politically active by voting and influencing their legislators on issues of Christian concern; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage believers to hold lawful assemblies on important Christian issues as provided by the Constitution and to obey the lawful direction of enforcement officials as they discharge their responsibilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our legislators, judges, and leaders to promote and defend our constitutional liberties and to main order with justice which is a human right; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we see God's requirement "to live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty" (1Ti 2:2), which draws attention to the saving grace of God as a biblical imperative, which must be followed; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we go on record as encouraging believers to avoid civil disobedience except on issues where laws are directed to prevent us from worshiping or where laws or authorities demand us to personally disobey the principles and precepts of God in His Word.

STATES LIMITING ABORTION

1991 – Wichita, KS

WHEREAS the Word of God declares that human life begins with conception (Job 3:3, Ps 51:5, Mt 1:20, Lk 1:35); and

WHEREAS life within the womb is the process of a deliberate Divine design and creation (Ps 139:13-16); and,

WHEREAS the Word of God expressly condemns abortion (Ge 9:6, Ex 21:22-23; Dt 19:10); and,

WHEREAS it is the expressed will of God that among the responsibilities of government are the protection of human life and the recompense of Divine justice against all who would destroy it (Ge 9:6, Ex 21:12, Lev 24:17, Nu 35:16, Pr 28:17, Ro 13:1-4), and

WHEREAS the United States has entered into binding agreements through several international treaties guaranteeing the right to birth; and,

WHEREAS one of those treaties, The American Convention on Human Rights, signed by executive privilege on June 1, 1977, by Jimmy Carter, then President of the United States, does specifically state in Part I, Article IV, Paragraph #1 that "Every person has the right to have his life respected. This right shall be protected by law and in general, from the moment of conception. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life..." and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States prescribes that "This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding..." and,

WHEREAS the Supreme court of the United States of America has placed upon the individual States of the Union the responsibility to regulate abortion in the case of *Reproductive Service versus the State of Missouri*;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates of the Sixty-second Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, urge the states to enact legislation to stop all government funding for abortions and to eliminate abortion as a legal medical procedure; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the states of Louisiana, Missouri,

Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, and the territory of Guam, for their efforts in legislation which limit the aborting of children; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that concerned pastors be encouraged to forward this resolution to their State Legislators and Governors urging them to act thereon; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this convention urge that Regionals adopt a resolution petitioning the restriction of abortion and present it to the proper officials and/or representatives of their states.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

1991 – Wichita, KS

WHEREAS there is in our nation a growing movement of sexual immorality advocating premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality as lifestyles to be accepted; and,

WHEREAS there are those in places of religious authority willing to yield to the demands that these immoral activities be labeled as acceptable and respectable; and

WHEREAS the Scriptures are clear that premarital and extra-marital sex are immoral and sinful (1Co 6:15-20; Ge 2:24); and,

WHEREAS the Bible is clear that homosexuality is not a legitimate alternative lifestyle, but as rather a gross sin indicative of the depth of man's rebellion against God (Ro 1:26,27; 1Co 6:9, 10; 2Pe 1:6, 7);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates of the Sixty-second National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, go on record as affirming chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage as the only Biblical standard of human sexuality; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we go on record as being opposed to any movement that would recognize homosexuality as anything but gross sin; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while we view pre-marital sex, extra marital sex, and homosexuality as sin, we do view those engaged in such practices as objects of the grace of God to be reached and won to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior of sinners, and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the members of our Fellowship be urged to distribute copies of this resolution to government officials, religious organizations, and news media at all levels.

THE SIGNS AND WONDERS MOVEMENT

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement is growing worldwide and impacting evangelical churches in our nation; and,

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement is based on a faulty interpretation of the kingdom of God, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the nature and use of spiritual gifts, and an unbiblical world view; and,

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement has an experience-oriented theology, undue emphasis on physical healing, and inadequate theology of suffering; and,

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement is especially attractive to Christians who are not regularly experiencing biblical and meaningful worship experiences in their local churches; and,

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement has attracted many diverse doctrinal groups and thus has encouraged ecumenical unity;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, reaffirm their belief and conviction concerning the doctrinal position of the IFCA on "The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts" (Art. IV, sec. 1, [11]), and on "Ecumenical Evangelism" (Art. IV, sec. 2b); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon those in leadership in all churches to equip believers and encourage the full use of the permanent spiritual gifts within the body of Christ for ministry to the church as well as outreach to the community and world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon those in leadership in all churches to teach believers a fully integrated theology of the sovereignty and power of God with that of suffering and unanswered prayer so that their congregations are not swayed by phenomenological occurrences; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon those in leadership in all churches to lead their congregations in meaningful worship with emphasis on a growing personal relationship with God; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that our faith and ministries reflect the character and greatness of God, and that they be commensurate with the power God makes available to the believer and the church.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS 1992 is a year of national political activity which provides an opportunity for Christians to exercise the privilege and responsibility of spiritual and moral influence in our society; and,

WHEREAS government is an institution ordained by God to carry out his purpose of justice in society (Ro 13:1-4); and,

WHEREAS Scripture stresses the importance and authority of those who rule in government (Ro 13:1-4); and,

WHEREAS Scripture exhorts Christians to be concerned about the leadership of those in government (1Ti 2:1,2); and,

WHEREAS Christians are charged with the responsibility to be salt and light in their influence in all areas of society including government (Mt 5:13,14); and,

WHEREAS God blesses nations that are righteous and judges those that are wicked (Pr 14:34; Ps 9:17);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, urge all Christians to exercise their influence by participating in the choice of leaders for our nation's government while bearing in mind the fact that moral and spiritual character and convictions are the most important attributes to be sought in our leaders.

EUTHANASIA

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS human life is given and sustained by God and is valued as precious in his sight (Ge 2:7; 9:6; Ps 139; Ac 17:26-28); and,

WHEREAS because man is created in the image of God, his whole existence is to be revered and protected (Ge 9:6; Jas 3:9); and,

WHEREAS the law of God forbids the taking of human life by murder, which does not include lawful justice (Ex 20:13); and,

WHEREAS there is a growing opinion in society in favor of the practice of euthanasia; and,

WHEREAS man's knowledge in comparison to the knowledge of God is extremely limited as to what constitutes true quality of life and thus man's will may not necessarily be in harmony with God's purpose and plan for the life and death of an individual; and,

WHEREAS the willful decision to take the life of those who are terminally ill or who are mentally and/or physically impaired or to assist in such a decision is a serious violation of the moral and ethical law of God;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, affirm the high and precious value which God places on human life; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm that the taking of the life of those who are terminally ill or mentally and/or physically impaired is solely the prerogative of God; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage all Christians to proclaim the sacredness of human life and to warn all people that euthanasia is patently contrary to the law of God.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS the age in which we live is one in which society's attitudes toward women are in a state of change, thus creating a growing uncertainty regarding the ministry of women in the local church; and,

WHEREAS Evangelical Feminism and other similar movements have erred in their efforts to redefine the role of women in the church and, in fact, have succeeded in leading many away from the biblical teaching regarding the distinction between the roles of men and women; and,

WHEREAS many churches, some even within our movement, have been negligent in recognizing the potential of women for ministry and of encouraging women to become involved in significant ministries, thus failing to utilize a God-given resource to the church, and also have been negligent to show proper appreciation for what women are doing in the church; and,

WHEREAS the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to men and women of God (1Co 12:7-11), and the Scripture teaches that men and women are to use those spiritual gifts in ministry which is edifying to the body of Christ and that such ministry is crucial to the effective functioning and growth of the local church (1Pe 4:10; 1Co 12:12-26);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, affirm that Scripture does not provide for women to serve in the office of elder or deacon (or any office of equivalent authority), not by reason of some inferiority, but by reason of God's ordained order pertaining to leadership in the church (1Ti 2:11-14; 3:2,12; Gal 3:28); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we acknowledge the valid questions and positive contributions of those who have called our attention to some of the injustices and insensitivities toward women in the church; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to make a deliberate effort to recognize the potential of women for ministry, to encourage women to become involved in significant ministries, to utilize this God-given resource, and to demonstrate appreciation for their ministry in the local church.

THE SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST AND THE SCRIPTURES

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS God has given to believers all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the provision of the believer's resources in Christ, the perfect wisdom of his Word, the gift of his Spirit, and the ministry of the Body of Christ; and,

WHEREAS we recognize the legitimacy of the ministry of Christian counseling and the discerning use of some extra-biblical data and behavioral observations; and,

WHEREAS increasing numbers of believers have had their confidence in the sufficiency of Christ and the Scriptures diminished because of literature, and radio and television counseling programs, both Christian and secular, and,

WHEREAS many Christian leaders have been led to believe that they are inadequately equipped to offer guidance and direction to those troubled by personal and interpersonal conflicts; and,

WHEREAS much of what is generally called "Christian Counseling" is actually based upon, or at least integrates certain principles, presuppositions and systems of thought which in their root are anti-biblical and which undermine and actually deny the biblical view of man in his spiritual and emotional characteristics as well as his inherent fallen nature;

BE IT RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America affirm that the loving, practical application of biblical principles with the guidance of the Holy Spirit is sufficient to help people deal with personal and interpersonal conflicts in life excepting in such cases where physiological disorders may cause and or contribute to those conflicts; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage pastors in particular to communicate to their congregations the sufficiency of our spiritual resources in Christ, in the Scriptures, in the person of the Holy Spirit and in the ministry of the Body of Christ; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon those involved in the ministry of Christian counseling to exercise great care and discernment in guarding against the unwitting use and or acceptance of psychological principles, presuppositions and systems of thought which are out of harmony with the Scripture.

THE PRE-WRATH RAPTURE POSITION

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS the recent teaching of an erroneous pre-wrath rapture theory has created fresh confusion and debate; and,

WHEREAS that eschatological position denies the immanency of Christ's coming for his saints as taught in the Scriptures; and,

WHEREAS its emphasis focuses attention upon watching for the Antichrist rather than watching for Christ; and,

WHEREAS it repudiates the dispensational doctrine of the distinction of Israel and the church during the Seventieth Week of Daniel; and,

WHEREAS it contradicts the biblical prophetic teaching concerning the Day of the Lord; and,

WHEREAS it diminishes one's awareness of the nature and expression of the wrath of God during the entire tribulation period; and,

WHEREAS it detracts from the expectancy, hope, comfort, and purifying effect of the immanency of the Rapture as taught in the Scriptures;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates and members present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, reaffirm their belief and conviction concerning the pre-tribulation rapture of the church; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in light of the expectancy of that event by the apostles as recorded in the Scriptures (1Th 1:10; 4:17; 5:4-11; 1Co 1:7; 15:51-53; Php 3:20; Tit 2:13; Jas 5:8-9), in light of the statements of Christ himself concerning his coming (Rev 3:11; 22:7,12,20), and in light of the fact that in all Scripture passages which clearly refer to the Rapture there is no mention of signs which must occur prior to the Rapture, we affirm the imminency of Christ's coming for his saints; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm the dispensational teaching of the distinction between Israel and the church (Da 9:24-27; Ro 11:25-32; 1Co 10:32); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage all Christians to counteract the false teaching of the pre-wrath rapture theory with clear, convincing teaching of the Word of God; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we pray "even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev 22:20) and live and look with fervent anticipation for his coming, being ready to meet him so that we will not be ashamed before him at his appearing (Tit 2:11-15; 1Jn 2:28).

CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTIONISM

1992 - Orlando, FL

WHEREAS there is a movement called Christian reconstructionism, Dominion theology, or theonomy that asserts that all of society is to be brought into obedience to the Mosaic Law; and,

WHEREAS the theological bases for Christian reconstructionism are Covenant theology and postmillennialism; and,

WHEREAS these views are being widely promoted through the writings of men such as Greg Bahnsen, David Chilton, Gary DeMar, Kenneth Gentry, Gary North, Joseph Morecraft, Earl Paulk, Rousas J. Rushdoony, Ray Sutton; and,

WHEREAS Christian reconstructionists teach that God's special plan and purpose in relation to the nation of Israel has been brought to completion and that Matthew 24 and the book of Revelation do not deal with the second coming of Christ, but are descriptions of what happened to Israel in A.D. 70; and,

WHEREAS Christian reconstructionists teach that it is the responsibility of the church to take over the governments of the world and to impose the Mosaic Law, including civil regulations upon every institution of society thus establishing the kingdom of God on earth before Christ returns on the last day of world history;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-third National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, affirm that God is not through with his plan and purpose for his covenant people, Israel (Ro 9-11), that the law, as a system was done away with by Christ's death on the cross (Ro 8:3,4; Gal 3:19-24) and that the Mosaic Law was never imposed upon the Gentiles (Ro 2:1-16);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm our belief that Jesus will personally and physically come to set up his one-thousand-year kingdom on earth (Zec 14; Rev 20) and until he translates his saints to heaven, the church's mandate is to carry out the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20);

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that individual believers seek to positively influence the government in the direction of biblical morality, maintain the true mission of the church and guard against using the government as a tool to Christianize society.

FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Scriptures plainly teach the value of persons in the womb as being God's workmanship to whom He has ascribed the status of human beings created in his own image (Job 3:3; Ps 100:3; 119:73; 139:13-16; Isa 44:2,24; 49:1,5; Jer 1:5; Lk 1:36, 41-45); and,

WHEREAS medical developments and legal decisions have affirmed the biblical teaching regarding the personhood of the fetus, namely: • Neo-natal medicine which salvages critically ill, tiny premature newborns • The survival of fetuses after late abortions • Fetal surgery and other fetal therapy • Occupational protection of the fetus whose mother is in the work place • Increasing public awareness of the impact on the fetus of alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse by the mother; and,

WHEREAS the essential character of the fetus as a person demands that we grant that person respect and protection; and,

WHEREAS the rules by which society abides are not absolute but change with time according to society's convenience and desires and therefore provide a rationalization for obtaining aborted fetuses, even keeping them alive for the purpose of experimental research or tissue harvesting;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth

Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America oppose such practice which not only encourages abortion but compounds the evil nature of it; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are also opposed to any fetal experimentation, tissue harvesting or research, for any purpose, scientific or commercial, involving an electively aborted fetus; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all physicians and scientists who share our convictions to oppose such activity and persuade others in the medical and scientific community that it is an unacceptable practice; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that President Clinton and each member of the Supreme Court be sent a copy of this resolution, accompanied by an appropriate personal letter from the National Executive Director.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS LEGISLATION

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Scriptures clearly establish the family as the foundational unit of society, in which parents are entrusted by God, with primary authority over their children (Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20,21); and,

WHEREAS parents are to consider their children as being gracious gifts from God and are to afford their children every opportunity for the development and realization of their fullest potential, by providing loving guidance, care, protection and biblical discipline (Dt 6:1-7; Ps 127:3-5; Pr 22:6,15; Mt 18:6); and,

WHEREAS in our society there are many instances in which parents are not faithfully fulfilling the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted nor has the Church always been effective in clearly defining and helping parents to fulfill those responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS the federal government and its various agencies are increasingly seeking to take upon themselves the role of advocate for our nation's children; and,

WHEREAS such agencies are seeking, through legislative and judicial means, to intrude on the primary authority of parents over their children;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual National Convention of the Independent Churches of America, reaffirm our commitment to the scriptural teaching that parents have primary authority over and responsibility for their children; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we sincerely commend those in our society who have recognized the jeopardy in which many of our nation's children are found, and who have raised their voices in issuing a call to greater awareness of the problem urging that a solution be found; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we exhort the Church to proclaim that the solution is not found in government programs and intrusion into the family to insure children's rights, but in all family members fulfilling their God-given responsibilities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the Church to pray for revival and renewal in the homes of America and a return to a biblical standard of family living; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the Church to increase its efforts to creatively and practically assist parents to take full responsibility for the care of their children.

HOMOSEXUALS IN THE ARMED SERVICES

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Bible clearly teaches that homosexuality is sin in the sight of God (Lev 18:22; Ro 1:24-27); and,

WHEREAS God has revealed his displeasure by pronouncing judgment upon homosexuality and societies which look favorably upon homosexuality (Ge 19:1-11; Lev 20:13; Ro 1:26,27; 1Co 6:9; Jude 7); and,

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States grants to Congress the power to make laws for military personnel, and those laws (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) classify sodomy and therefore, homosexual behavior, as criminal (Article 125); and,

WHEREAS the Military Service Chiefs and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regard the present ban on homosexuals as essential to maintain discipline, good order, and morale, and to foster trust and confidence among service members;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America express their appreciation and support for the stand which the Military Service Chiefs, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Powell have taken against the lifting of the current ban on homosexuals in the armed forces; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon President Clinton to remember that his authority comes from God (Ro 13:1), and God holds him accountable to exercise that authority in a way which is consistent with God's holy standard of what is good (Ro 13:4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT WE ADMONISH President Clinton not to seek a change in the laws of society which are consistent with God's natural and written laws while encouraging him to withdraw any initiatives aimed at lifting or weakening the current ban on homosexuals in the armed forces; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage true Christians everywhere to cultivate an attitude of grace toward homosexuals, being careful to distinguish between the sin, which we must hate, and the sinner to whom we freely proclaim the forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus Christ; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we direct our National Executive Director to send a copy of this resolution along with an appropriate letter to President Clinton, Senator Nunn, Secretary of Defense Aspin, General Powell and the Military Service Chiefs.

HOMOSEXUALS IN MINISTRY

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Church is coming under increasing criticism from the homosexual community and those who are in sympathy with them for what they perceive to be our lack of love and tolerance; and,

WHEREAS there is in our society a growing discussion over the legitimacy of placing homosexuals into positions of church leadership; and,

WHEREAS some church organizations are currently placing homosexuals in the ministry; and,

WHEREAS the Scripture holds spiritual leaders to a high standard of moral and spiritual purity in both testimony and behavior (1Ti 3:1-7; 2Ti 2:19-26); and,

FURTHERMORE, the Scriptures teach homosexuality is a sin (Lev 20:13; 1Co 6:9), and the placement of homosexuals in positions of church leadership and ministry is a rejection of the teaching of Scripture and a denial of its authority;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America hold to the teaching of Scripture which says that homosexuality is sin and thus it disqualifies the homosexual for ministry; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the necessity for those who minister in the Church to live in a manner which is morally and spiritually above reproach and is an example for others to follow; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage true Christians everywhere to cultivate an attitude of grace toward homosexuals, being careful to distinguish between the sin, which we must hate,

and the sinner whom we must love and to whom we freely proclaim the forgiveness of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

INNER CITY MINISTRY

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Bible is clear that the Church has been given the moral mandate to reach out to the needy masses wherever they may be, including the inner cities of America (Mk 16:15; Lk 10:30-37); and,

WHEREAS the inner cities are in a state of massive moral, spiritual, and social decay, and are unable to solve this problem through government intervention; and,

WHEREAS there are millions of people in the inner cities whom the Church is neglecting; and,

WHEREAS at times, the Church has been unbalanced in its allocation of resources and outreach to the inner city; and,

WHEREAS the IFCA is largely an Anglo, middle-class, rural-suburban Fellowship;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America reaffirm that the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned the Church to reach all peoples of every ethnic background and economic level with the Gospel (Mt 28:19; Ac 1:8); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reemphasize the need for the establishment and support of local churches within the inner city (Mk 1:38); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the fulfillment of the Great Commission requires that we endeavor to minister to those in the inner cities both physically and spiritually (Mt 25:35-46; Lk 3:11; 1Ti 1:5; Jas 2:14-17); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we give ourselves to fervent prayer for the lost and our brethren in the inner city; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to increase their effort and resources toward the inner cities.

POWER EVANGELISM

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God is indispensable in the work of evangelism and is in itself sufficient to bring about saving faith (Jn 16:8-11; Ro 10:17); and,

WHEREAS the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16), and the Scriptures teach that signs, wonders and miracles bore witness to the authenticity of the messengers of the Gospel prior to the conclusion of God's written revelation, and were not casual elements to saving faith (Lk 16:31; Mt 12:38, 39; Heb 2:1-4); and,

WHEREAS there are those who have been variously identified as members of the Third Wave, the Signs and Wonders Movement, and the Vineyard Movement, all proponents of "power evangelism" who teach that true evangelism needs to be preceded and undergirded by supernatural demonstrations of God's presence such as miracles, healings, prophecy, deliverance from evil spirits, words of knowledge and tongues;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America reaffirm their belief in the simplicity, sufficiency and power of the Gospel message, and that the Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel alone to bring about saving faith; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we exhort believers everywhere to exercise cautious discernment lest they be deceived into seeking the "sensational" in their exercise of personal evangelism and thus be led into attractive looking heresies which exalt experience over the Word of God.

DEMONIC WARFARE

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS the Scriptures teach the personality and presence of Satan as an active being to be reckoned with in spiritual warfare (Jas 4:7; 2Co 11:14; 1Pe 5:8); and,

WHEREAS a growing number of believers take the position that our primary call is to aggressively fight and defeat the forces of darkness rather than to pursue personal righteousness through obedience to the Word of God; and,

WHEREAS the Scriptures indicate that caution in battling Satan was exercised by Michael the archangel in deferring that prerogative to God (Jude 9);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America encourage one another to make their primary focus their relationship with Christ rather than a pre-occupation with engaging in warfare with Satan and his hosts for the purpose of binding him; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we remember the Scriptures teach that we have been provided, in Christ, everything that pertains to life, godliness and victory over Satan and that we do not need to defeat Satan to enhance our position in Christ, rather the Scriptures admonish us to resist the attacks of Satan through obedience to the Word of God, with the promise that he will flee (2Pe 1:3,4; Eph 6:11; 1Jn 4:4; Jas 4:7; 1Pe 5:9).

RUSSIAN / UKRAINIAN WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

1993 - Itasca, IL

WHEREAS God has answered the prayers of believers by opening the former Soviet Union to the free proclamation of the Gospel; and,

WHEREAS churches of like mind and doctrine with us in Russia and Ukraine, most notably the Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches, are being mightily used of God during this period of freedom; and,

WHEREAS the economic and political instability in that part of the world make the duration of this window of opportunity uncertain; and,

WHEREAS many religious organizations and cults are already exploiting this opportunity to propagate false teaching; and,

WHEREAS, God has blessed our Fellowship with the resources to encourage and assist the existing like-minded Russian and Ukrainian churches and pastors;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fourth Annual Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America express our support for the existing like-minded churches in Russia and Ukraine and our desire to assist them in the accomplishment of the spiritual deliverance of their countrymen; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the churches and membership of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America be encouraged to respond actively to the request of our Russian and Ukrainian brothers to assist them through prayer support, training, material resources, and literature; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches be exhorted to prayerful and swift cooperation with our national office in its effort to coordinate the sponsorship of Russian and Ukrainian local churches and pastors; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the directors of Union of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches, and to each individual member and church of our Fellowship.

VICTIMISM

WHEREAS there has become entrenched within our society a “therapeutic culture” which has produced a philosophy herein referred to as “victimism,” which encourages individuals to excuse sinful actions and attitudes as being the result of circumstances and environmental pressures beyond their control; and,

WHEREAS victimism utilizes such issues as race, education, family, gender, economic status, and judicial process to shift the blame away from oneself as an acceptable means by which people can cope with their sense of personal accountability and guilt; and,

WHEREAS God clearly states that every individual is personally accountable for one’s own actions and reactions (Eze 18:20; 2Co 5:10; Ro 2:11-16; 14:12); and,

WHEREAS God states that He provides the enabling grace needed by every individual to overcome any circumstance of life, regardless of the cause -- warning “lest anyone fall short” of this grace (Heb 12:14,15; 1Co 10:13; 2Co 12:9, 10; Php 4:12,13),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America meeting in Santa Rosa, California, June 23-28, 1994, reaffirm our strong and personal commitment to biblical compassion toward those who are truly suffering the consequences of sinful actions committed against them (1Jn 3:16-18; Gal 6:2; Jas 2:15,16); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we forcefully affirm that victimism stands in direct contradiction to the teaching of Scripture regarding the depravity of man and individual accountability for actions and/or reactions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage pastors and churches to proclaim the fact that victimism does not represent true compassion for those who have suffered in that it grants everyone potential victim status thereby obscuring the legitimate needs of those who are truly suffering; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that our pastors and churches be encouraged to provide counseling from the biblical perspective which rejects victimism as an appropriate method of therapy, and/or to limit their referrals to counselors who do the same.

LITERAL SIX TWENTY-FOUR HOUR DAY CREATION

1994 - Santa Rosa, CA

WHEREAS the evolutionary theory has so pervaded our society that those who hold to a literal six twenty-four-hour day creation are often regarded as being intellectually simplistic, uninformed, and unscientific; and,

WHEREAS this attitude has in many cases resulted in organizations, churches, and individuals attempting to maintain respectability through their accommodation of evolutionary theories claiming that creation took place over a long period of time; and,

WHEREAS such accommodation violates the principles of literal interpretation of Scripture and the doctrine of a verbal, plenary inspiration by shaping the scriptural record to harmonize with evolutionary theory; and,

WHEREAS such a violation can serve as the initial catalyst for doctrinal deviation and further interpretational distortion;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America reaffirm our belief that the proper method of interpretation is to take all Scripture in its natural and literal sense; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm our belief in a literal six twenty-four-hour day creation as clearly taught by Scripture through the wording in Genesis 1,2 and as supported by the rest of Scripture (e.g., Ex 20:8-11; 31:17,18); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IFCA churches be encouraged to endorse this position in their official church documents (e.g., doctrinal statement, constitution, by-laws, policy manual or position paper); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Henry Morris and the Institute for Creation Research along with a letter from the national executive director, commending them for their sacrificial labor in promoting scientific biblical creationism.

REDUCING THE RISK OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

1994 - Santa Rosa, CA

WHEREAS child sexual abuse is a serious blight on our society and recent statistics reveal that its incidence is on the increase in America's churches; and,

WHEREAS, the church, historically, has justifiably been viewed as a place of safety and trust, and such a perception is essential to an effective outreach in the community;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America recognize and respond to the increasing possibility that the tragedy of child sexual abuse could happen in our churches; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our pastors and churches to take immediate steps to assure that our churches and related ministries are the safe places, for children and all people, that they ought to be; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we seek the appropriate assistance in instituting policies and procedures that protect the testimony and ministry of the church by making it more difficult for child molesters to find easy opportunity for fulfilling their depraved desires yet, at the same time, reach out in Christian love and compassion to such individuals who may be enslaved by this evil taskmaster, in order that they might be freed by the Savior; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we educate ourselves and our church people in the appropriate and compassionate response to those who have been abused and molested, and that we seek to facilitate their healing and restoration to happy, productive, and stable lives through the loving ministry of the Word of God and a demonstration of our Christ-like concern.

EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

1994 - Santa Rosa, CA

WHEREAS, on March 29, 1994, an accord bearing the title: "EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium," was released by prominent Roman Catholic and Evangelical leaders declaring their "common convictions about Christian faith and mission"(1) which they "believe may signal a [sic] historic realignment of Christian communities in the U.S. and elsewhere.; (2) and,

WHEREAS this accord "explains and celebrates a 'pattern of convergence and cooperation' between Evangelicals and Catholics in shared Christian faith, common cultural and social tasks, and evangelistic commitment;"(3) and,

WHEREAS this accord is based upon the common cause of social activism, not a genuine unity which is centered on truth as delineated in John 17:21-23; and,

WHEREAS this accord teaches that "the cause of Christ" (4) is all that really matters, thereby minimizing theological differences which are essentially irreconcilable, by stating that "we cannot understand completely the transcendent reality of God and his ways...In this search to understand the truth more fully and clearly, we need each other;"(5) and,

WHEREAS this accord calls for Evangelicals and Roman Catholics to stop aggressively “proselytizing or sheep stealing,”(6) claiming that such recruitment “undermine[s] the Christian mission”(7) as defined in this agreement; and,

WHEREAS historically, the Roman Catholic Church has vigorously opposed the biblical teaching of salvation by grace, plus nothing, and has consistently held with the Council of Trent (Sixth Session), as confirmed by the Second Vatican Council, that “no man can know with infallible assurance of faith that he has obtained the grace of God,” and in the 1971 St. Peter’s Catechism, taught that “to say one is saved and sure of heaven is a sin of presumption;”(8) and,

WHEREAS the March 1994 English edition of the Roman Catholic Catechism disparages the historic Reformation and IFCA position on biblical inerrancy and the intelligibility of Scripture by saying that “It invites people to a kind of intellectual suicide. It injects into life a false certitude;”(9)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America plead with our brethren, who have signed this accord in an effort to help them see that this is a compromise of biblically authentic Christianity (1Ti 6:11-16; 2Ti 3:5,14-17; 4:1-5,7); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon IFCA churches and pastors to treat this agreement as one which promotes “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6-8), and to use this opportunity to teach the importance of doctrinal distinctives, the subtle dangers of compromise, and the need for vigorous evangelism of all the unsaved in the world; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, with a letter of loving admonition from our national executive director to the following individuals whose signatures appear on this accord: Dr. Mark Noll, Wheaton College; Dr. James J. I. Packer, Regent College; Rev. Pat Robertson, Regent University; Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ; Mr. Charles Colson, Prison Fellowship; Dr. Richard Land, Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Dr. Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention; and dr. Os Guinness, Trinity Forum.

1. “EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium” Released by Religion and Public Life, New York, NY p.1
2. Ibid. (Cover letter, p. 1).
3. Ibid. pp. 12,15,26.
4. Ibid. p.11.
5. Ibid. p. 9.
6. Ibid. p.22.
7. Ibid. p. 20.
8. Lyle Murphy, May 1994 Newsletter. Grace Evangelistic Ministries, Lee’s Summit, MO
9. Ibid

POWER POLITICS
1994 - Santa Rosa, CA

WHEREAS an increasing number of Christians are turning to political and social activism as the primary means of fulfilling God’s intention that we be the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world”; and,

WHEREAS this approach attempts to impact our culture by a pre-occupation with political and moral issues, cause driven social agendas, and the scorning of public officials and political opponents; and,

WHEREAS such a pre-occupation diverts the attention and energy of individual believers from the biblical priorities of involvement in the local church, and the responsibility to fulfill the great commission;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America call upon our churches and people to be mindful of the power of the Gospel to change the hearts of individuals by reconciling them to God and our responsibility to teach them in the ways of godly living, thereby transforming, from within, the society in which we live; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we sound the clarion call to believers everywhere to fervently pray for our nation and our divinely appointed leaders and thereby manifest our greater confidence in the power of God than in the democratic process (1Ti 2:1-4; Eph 6:10-18; Ps 118:8); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we affirm our understanding that Scripture requires the believer to responsibly engage himself in addressing the moral, social, and political ills of our society (Mt 5:13-16; 1Pe 2:11,12; 1Co 4:1,2) but that such involvement to be consistent with the additional responsibility to “be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men” (Tit 3:1,2; 1Pe 2:13-17; 1Co 4:1,2), while at the same time recognizing and maintaining his allegiance to the higher authority of God and His Word (Ac 3:29).

SEXUAL PURITY AND TRAINING

1994 - Santa Rosa, CA

WHEREAS the prevailing attitudes of our society and current government policies have created an atmosphere in which the destructive effects of immorality are becoming increasingly evident; and,

WHEREAS the current approach to sex-education, commonly referred to as “safe sex,” is particularly offensive to those who hold to traditional biblical moral values including self-control and abstinence until marriage, the value of maintaining one’s virginity until marriage, and faithful monogamous heterosexual relationships in marriage; and,

WHEREAS this immorality has infiltrated the church, quenching its spiritual power and weakening its witness in the world;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-fifth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America commit ourselves, and call upon others, to rise to the occasion as pastors and church leaders, protecting our flocks, by taking immediate and specific action to halt the encroachment of this ill wind in our society by warning against it and preparing young people as well as adults to deal with this philosophy from a biblical perspective; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we strive to accomplish this end through the following means:

Addressing the issue from the pulpit, providing biblically based instruction on principles of human sexuality; its purpose, its expression, and its benefits

Training parents in the skill of communicating these principles to their children in an age-appropriate manner

Providing our youth with frank and honest information regarding the sanctity of sex, the benefits of abstinence, the blessing of maintaining virginity until marriage and reliance upon the enabling grace and power of God to remain pure, fortifying them against the pressure of their peers and the society in which they will be confronted with this philosophy and encouraging them in the certain truth that it is possible to exercise self-control (Ro 6; 8:2-11; 1Co 6:9-20; 9:25; Gal 5:22-24)

Exhorting parents to actively engage themselves in the process of screening that which their children are being exposed to in the schools and exercising their right to remove their children from exposure to curricula which are opposed to the biblical principles of morality

Admonishing parents to exercise their God given responsibility to protect their children from the sexually explicit material that is increasingly being thrust upon our society through the media of television, radio, video films, music, printed literature and computer/video games

Challenging, in the strongest possible way, parents, teachers, youth leaders and all those who God has privileged with the opportunity to minister to young people, to hold themselves to the highest standards of moral purity in their own lives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on Christians everywhere, beginning with pastors and church leaders, to raise the banner of righteousness in every community by modeling holy living in their personal lives, in their homes, in their workplace, and in every place and situation (1Pe 1:14-16; 2:9-12); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we seek to reclaim the lost power of the Church by laying hold of God in prayer as we confess the sin of tolerance of impurity in our own lives.

PRAYER, REPENTANCE AND REVIVAL

1995 - Colorado Springs, CO

WHEREAS the Church of Jesus Christ is charged with the sacred responsibility "to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. . ." (Mk 12:30) thus serving as light and salt in a world lost in the darkness of sin and foundering in a sea of moral decay; and,

WHEREAS the Church in America has largely lost its passion for Christ as evidenced by an apathy toward God's Word, an unwillingness to obey God's will, a deficiency of evangelistic fervor, a lack of commitment to service, the presence of a critical spirit, a pre-occupation with materialism, a disinterest in holy living, an independent spirit, and a waning enthusiasm for the things of God; and,

WHEREAS this loss of passion is manifested to varying degrees, both within the ministries of our own Fellowship and our own lives, as "lukewarmness," thus diminishing our impact on a lost world and deeply grieving the heart of God; and,

WHEREAS God clearly calls His people to unqualified devotion and warns of the consequences of their failure to repent of "lukewarmness" (Ro 12:1,2; Col 3:1-4; 2Co 5:10,11; Rev 3:14-22);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members and delegates present at the Sixty-sixth Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America humble ourselves in the presence of the Lord (Jas 4:10), being exposed to the pure light of His Word (Eph 5:8-15,26) and submitting to the ministry of the Spirit of God as He convicts of sin (Jn 16:13); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with meekness and fear we call upon one another as brethren in Christ everywhere to turn to our merciful and gracious God in humility and sincere repentance of our sin; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that today we determine before God to more faithfully teach, preach and pray for revival in our churches to the end that the testimony and power of the Church may increase, thus bringing greater glory to God and benefiting those who are lost; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we earnestly entreat the Holy Spirit to move amongst our churches "that our God may enlighten our eyes and give to us a measure of revival . . ." (Ezr 9:8), thus renewing us in our faith and walk with God.

THE CAMBRIDGE DECLARATION

1996 - Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS in recent years some have continually engaged in efforts to bind doctrinally different churches together by emphasizing their "common convictions about Christian faith and mission" which they "believe may signal a historic realignment of the Christian communities in the U.S. and elsewhere. . ." ;1 and,

WHEREAS our fellowship has consistently viewed these efforts as promoting "another gospel" (Gal 1:6-8), which, to the abandonment of doctrinal distinctives, will lead to compromise and to a loss of evangelistic zeal; and,

WHEREAS the Cambridge Declaration, released on April 20, 1996, accurately expresses our concerns with reference to the following doctrinal issues: the authority of the Scripture (Sola Scriptura), the centrality of Christ's mediatorial work and substitutionary atonement (Sola Christus), salvation as the result of the grace of God alone (Sola Gratia), justification by grace through faith alone (Sola Fide), and our need to give glory to God alone (Soli Deo Gloria); and,

WHEREAS the authors of this declaration, the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, have stated these positions with clarity, concern, and heart felt conviction that pastors, Christian educators, and the church must return to these truths of the Reformation and of historic Evangelicalism;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we the members and delegates present at the Sixty-seventh Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America express our gratitude to God for the well worded theses of the Cambridge Declaration insofar as they agree with the IFCA doctrinal statement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to upholding these cardinal truths of the Scriptures, proclaiming them without reservation, seeking the salvation of the lost; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the churches of our fellowship and churches everywhere to guard against any who would seek to deny the authority of the Scripture (Sola Scriptura), the centrality of Christ's mediatorial work and substitutionary atonement (Sola Christus), salvation as a result of the grace of God (Sola Gratia), justification by grace through faith alone (Sola Fide), and our need to give glory only to God (Soli Deo Gloria); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Executive Director send a copy of this resolution to the framers of the Cambridge Declaration along with a letter expressing our thanks to God and our gratitude for their work.

SAME SEX MARRIAGES

1996 - Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS God created man in His own image, male and female He created them (Ge 1:26-27); and,

WHEREAS man and woman were created as companions for each other, their marriage creating the nucleus of a God ordained unit (Ge 2:18, 24), displaying His handiwork and revealing the mystery of the union of God with redeemed mankind, the church (Eph 5:30-32); and,

WHEREAS the marriage between one man and one woman is the only God-ordained pattern of biblical marriage, with any alteration of this basic unit constituting a transgression bearing dire consequences (Heb 13:4); and,

WHEREAS this male-female union is the cornerstone of the family, the building block of all society; and,

WHEREAS the Bible declares homosexuality and the improper union which results from such "vile affections" as gross and grievous sin (Ro 1:26); and,

WHEREAS many today seek to legitimize "same sex marriages", calling upon all levels of government, both legislative and judicial, to create a legal status for their practice;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-seventh Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America reaffirm their commitment to the scriptural pattern of marriage between one man and one woman; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our local, state and national legislators along with the judges of our court system to maintain current standards of marriage and recognize that any deviation from such is morally reprehensible and brings destructive forces of decay within our society; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our church and those who minister within them to uphold the Biblical standard of marriage, and not to recognize, sanction, or perform any other form of union; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while we view homosexuality as gross sin, we view those who are involved in it as objects of the grace of God, to be reached and won from that and other sins to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior of sinners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we make public our standard of Biblical marriage and ask our National Executive Director to send a copy of this resolution to all state and national legislatures, asking them as honored servants to maintain current laws and to enact any amendments which preserve the traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

ABUSE IN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

1996 - Grand Rapids, MI

WHEREAS marriage is an institution that has been ordained by God for the welfare of all mankind (Ge 2:24); and,

WHEREAS the Word of God presents the guiding principles for family relationships, which include: submitting to one another, wives recognizing the headship of their husbands, husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the church, children honoring and obeying their parents, fathers training and admonishing their children in the Lord, while not provoking them to anger (Eph 5:21 – 6:4); and,

WHEREAS sinful humanity, tends to violate the principles of God resulting in a disintegration of family relationships; and,

WHEREAS by rejecting God's loving pattern for the family, people inflict physical, verbal, and emotional abuse on members of their families through anger, wrath, and self-centeredness; and,

WHEREAS physical, verbal, and emotional abuse occasionally exists within the families of our fellowship, bringing dishonor to our Savior;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-seventh Annual National Convention of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, reaffirm our commitment to God's biblical pattern for the family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we oppose abuse of any kind because it is sin, brings dishonor to God, it degrades and devalues the individual's personal worth and the lasting interpersonal relationships God intended for the family; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon our churches to continue emphasizing proper and loving family relationships which present the power of Christ in the home and to continue encouraging those who are bound in such sin to seek repentance, biblical counsel, and restoration.

POLITICALLY CORRECT TRANSLATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

1997 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS the historic position of IFCA International has been "We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2Ti 3:16, 17; 2Pe 1:20,21; Mt 5:18; Jn 16:12, 13); and,

WHEREAS we have a responsibility as the people of God to maintain the accuracy of the biblical text for present and future generations; and,

WHEREAS translation practices which strive for "political correctness" above accuracy fail to reflect the fact that the very words of scripture are given by God; and,

WHEREAS these principles of translation have great potential for either obscuring or distorting the doctrines of scripture resulting in grave error; and,

WHEREAS the Inclusive Language Edition of the New International Version has been released in England and is the product of such practices;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International express our appreciation to the Trinitarian Bible Society for having raised concerns about the Inclusive Language Edition of the New International Version, to Dr. James Dobson, for actively pursuing these concerns, and to the International Bible Society and Zondervan Publishing House for responding to concerns expressed by evangelical Christians; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the entire constituency of IFCA International to guard against the incipient dangers of any and all translations which result from the application of the aforementioned translation practices; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and a letter be sent to the Trinitarian Bible Society, Dr. James Dobson, the International Bible Society, and Zondervan Publishing House.

PRIORITY OF MISSIONS

1997 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS IFCA International churches have consistently had a strong emphasis on missions; and,

WHEREAS IFCA International churches are to be commended for having given over thirty-one million dollars to missions in 1996, an increase of over six million dollars from the previous year; and,

WHEREAS a large number of the membership of IFCA International are actively involved in missions as missionaries; and,

WHEREAS the Lord has instructed believers to be witnesses for Him "both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Ac 1:8, KJV) and to establish disciple-growing churches everywhere; and,

WHEREAS the local church is seen as the sending agency of missionaries, as Antioch was for Paul and Barnabas; and,

WHEREAS in spite of the tremendous level of commitment of our churches, the average missionary candidate spends up to five years raising initial support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International call upon ALL our member churches and individual members to develop or rekindle, and to intensify their emphasis on missions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon churches of our Fellowship to educate and encourage children, young people, and adults to consider God's primal call upon their lives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our churches to support members of their congregations who have been approved for missionary service; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage churches and individuals to continue giving generously, and when necessary, sacrificially to support missionaries; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Executive Director, through VOICE Magazine, continues to emphasize the cause of missions to the glory of our Lord.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

1997 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS IFCA International has through previous resolutions acknowledged the biblical teaching that human life begins with conception and that the Word of God expressly condemns abortion (Job 3:3, Ps 51:5, Mt 1:22, Lk 1:35, Ge 9:6 Ex 21:22-23); and,

WHEREAS the United States Congress has passed not once, but twice, legislation prohibiting the practice of partial-birth abortions; and,

WHEREAS President William Jefferson Clinton has twice vetoed congressional legislation that would have terminated the practice of partial-birth abortion;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International reaffirm our historic position as stated above and reaffirm our opposition to the taking of human life by the practice of abortion; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend those in the United States Congress who voted for, and especially those who worked for the passage of the legislation prohibiting partial birth abortion; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our grave disappointment with the decision of those representatives and senators who failed to vote in opposition to the practice of partial-birth abortion; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we fervently exhort President William Jefferson Clinton to take the moral initiative to lead our nation in the fulfillment of its constitutional responsibility to protect and preserve human life and to do so whether the persons in question are unborn, fully born, or only partially born, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our constituents to send letters of commendation to those legislators who supported the partial-birth abortion ban, and letters expressing disappointment and disapproval to President William Jefferson Clinton and each of those legislators who failed to do so; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution with a letter be sent by our Executive Director to each U.S. Representative, each U.S. Senator, and to the President of the United States.

MAINTAINING BIBLICAL STANDARDS OF LEADERSHIP

1997 - Schroon Lake, NY

WHEREAS in our present climate in which the importance of sound biblical doctrine is being minimized, churches are being tempted to place men in positions of leadership who do not meet the qualifications of I Timothy chapter three and Titus chapter one;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International urge our churches to adhere tenaciously to the scriptural qualifications in selecting and installing men as pastors, elders and deacons; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that our churches be urged to refrain from installing men as pastors, elders and deacons who are not biblically qualified.

“EVANGELICALS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER II”

“THE GIFT OF SALVATION”

1998 - Lake Zurich, IL

WHEREAS following the release of the original document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" on March 29, 1994, a second document was published on November 13, 1997, entitled "The Gift of Salvation;" and

WHEREAS the stated purpose of this document is, ". . . to express a common faith in Christ and to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters in Christ," and ". . . to bring to the whole world the tidings of God's love and of the salvation accomplished in our crucified, and returning Lord;" and,

WHEREAS, this recent document purports to affirm the traditional view of justification by faith alone (sola fide); and,

WHEREAS the document concludes with the evangelicals and Catholics affirming themselves ". . . as disciples together of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . [affirming] unity in the gospel that we have here professed;" and,

WHEREAS there has been no change (written or in practice) in the traditional Roman Catholic position regarding the practice of merit, rewards, purgatory, indulgences, Marian devotion, assistance of (dead) saints, baptism, Papal succession and infallibility [Cf: Council of Trent 1563, Vatican II and The New Catholic Catechism (1994)]; and,

WHEREAS the signatories of this document continue to ignore the doctrinal differences which exist, by promoting semantic agreement;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International express the conviction that the agreement stated in "The Gift of Salvation" does not address the obvious differences between Catholics and Evangelicals as they relate to salvation, continuing to allow the addition of works and sacraments to the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we fortify our efforts to defend the faith and to call Christians everywhere to be alert regarding the efforts of the enemy to pervert and vitiate the biblical teaching of salvation by faith alone and it's practical application in the lives of those for whom Christ died; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent, with a letter of loving admonition from our Executive Director to the following individuals whose signatures appear on this document: Gerald L. Bray (Beeson Divinity School), Dr. Bill Bright (Campus Crusade for Christ), Dr. Harold O.J. Brown (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School), Mr. Charles Colson (Prison Fellowship), Bishop William C. Frey (Episcopal Church), Dr. Timothy George (Beeson Divinity School), Dr. Os Guinness (The Trinity Forum), Dr. Kent R. Hill (Eastern Nazarene College), Rev. Max Lucado (Oak Hills Church of Christ, San Antonio, Texas), Dr. T.M. Moore (Chesapeake Theological Seminary), Dr. Richard Mouw (Fuller Theological Seminary), Dr. Mark A. Noll (Wheaton College), Mr. Brian F. O'Connell (Interdev), Dr. Thomas Oden (Drew University), Dr. James I. Packer (Regent College, British Columbia), Dr. Timothy R. Phillips (Wheaton College), Dr. John Rodgers (Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry), Dr. John Woodbridge (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Christian and Missionary Alliance, Evangelical Free Church, General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, Southern Baptist Convention and any other organizations as may be deemed appropriate by the Executive Director of IFCA International, with an appeal to join with us in taking similar action.

PORNOGRAPHY

1998 - Lake Zurich, IL

WHEREAS the increasing use of the Internet, video tapes and cable and satellite television is making pornography more readily available to people, including children; and,

WHEREAS such material is destructive to individuals and families through the erosion of the moral fiber upon which individual and family life should be based; and,

WHEREAS the Bible clearly admonishes each believer to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1Th 5:22); and, strongly warns against not only the practice of sexual impurity but also against taking ". . . pleasure in them that do them." (Ro 1:32);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International, affirm that pornography in all of its forms is abhorrent to God and to us; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to abstain from the personal use of such material and to carefully guard against its influence in the lives of our families; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon each church within our fellowship to use biblical teaching and any other available godly means to actively oppose the spread of such material and to supplement those efforts by opposing legislation that would make such material more readily available and by supporting legislation which would curtail the growth of the pornography industry or bring about its demise.

PROGRESSIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

1998 - Lake Zurich, IL

WHEREAS IFCA International has historically held to a literal method of interpretation, a distinction between Israel and the Church and a minimum of three distinct dispensations: the age of law, the age of the Church and the age of the millennial kingdom; and,

WHEREAS in recent years increasing recognition has been given to a theological position known as Progressive Dispensationalism which facilitates greater dialogue between Dispensational and Covenant theologians; and,

WHEREAS Progressive Dispensationalism encourages the use of a hermeneutic principle called "Complementary Hermeneutics" in addition to the natural, literal method of interpretation; and,

WHEREAS Progressive Dispensationalism, by emphasizing the kingdom as the unifying theme of biblical history, minimizes the distinctions between the various dispensations and some view Christ as currently sitting on the throne of David in heaven, thus fulfilling the Davidic Covenant; and,

WHEREAS Progressive Dispensationalism views the Church as an earthly entity and minimizes distinctions between Israel and the Church;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Sixty-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm commitment to our historic dispensational position; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon our churches and members to guard against any attempt to move away from our historic positions of the literal interpretation of Scripture, dispensational distinctives and the distinctions between Israel and the Church.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1999 - Eugene, OR

WHEREAS the Lord Jesus Christ pronounces a blessing on peacemakers; and,

WHEREAS believers are exhorted that, "so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." (Ro 12:18); and,

WHEREAS believers are commanded to act "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph 4:2-3); and,

WHEREAS believers are admonished to resolve conflict between them in the context of the local church (cp. 1Co 6:1-8); and,

WHEREAS the society in which we live is becoming increasingly litigious; and,

WHEREAS believers individually, and churches corporately, are more frequently yielding to pressure to follow society in the seeking of redress through the legal system;

BE IT THEREFORE resolved that the members and delegates present at the Seventieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, urge our constituents to daily "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph 4:32); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage churches and believers to renew their commitment to the biblical teaching regarding conflict resolution, specifically that teaching related to the inappropriateness of believers taking believers to secular courts to resolve disputes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we exhort believers and churches, where third party assistance is necessary, to commit themselves to seek the counsel and judgment of godly, wise brethren, and also to submit to the decision of these brethren, trusting in the Lord for protection and vindication; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage IFCA International churches to establish such resources as are necessary to provide to their congregations such conciliation services, and where this is not possible, to seek to identify and utilize Christian organizations specifically set up to render this service, with the goal of accomplishing reconciliation between believers in a biblical manner.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

1999 - Eugene, OR

WHEREAS human beings are created in the image of God and derive their value from Him; and, WHEREAS the prerogative to determine the number of one's days belongs solely to God (Psalm 139:16); and,

WHEREAS the divine prerogative is being usurped by those demanding a "quality of life" ethic as a right through the practice of physician-assisted suicide; and,

WHEREAS voters have legalized physician-assisted suicide in the state of Oregon, and right to die groups are proposing that other states adopt similar laws; and,

WHEREAS the legal point at issue is whether physician-assisted suicide is a right protected under Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS on an emotional level, arguments supporting physician-assisted suicide focus on alleviating exceptional suffering and the right of an individual to exercise personal autonomy; and,

WHEREAS cultural norms, legal standards, and emotional priorities do not determine morality; and,

WHEREAS there is a profound moral distinction between allowing the natural process of death and assisting the death process;

BE IT THEREFORE resolved that the members and delegates present at the Seventieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, affirm that physician-assisted suicide is morally and biblically wrong under any circumstance; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm that for the believer to die is gain and therefore encourage those who suffer to look to the Lord Jesus for eternal salvation, and strength to endure temporal pain (2Co 4:16-18); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm mercy and compassion, but reject such affirmation as a license to usurp God's prerogatives, and seek instead to care for those who suffer; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our constituents to seek to defeat federal or state legislation that would legalize physician-assisted suicide and to support legislation to ensure that tax dollars will not be used to pay for or promote physician-assisted suicide; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we ask our churches to send a copy of this resolution, along with a cover-letter of support, to the leadership of the state governments within their regional fellowships.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOLINESS WITHIN THE CHURCH

1999 - Eugene, OR

WHEREAS our God instructs us to "be holy, for I am holy" (1Pe 1:16); and,

WHEREAS God's people, in light of the coming day of the Lord, are encouraged to be concerned with what manner of men they ought to be in holy conduct and godliness (2Pe 3:10-12); and,

WHEREAS God is particular concerning what worship He will receive, in both qualification of the worshipper as well as in the quality of the worship; and,

WHEREAS God has repeatedly warned His people throughout Scripture to beware the lures of conformity to the world; and,

WHEREAS one of Satan's historic strategies has been to see God's people secularized in their beliefs and practices; and,

WHEREAS the current trend among many Christians in avoiding the issues of depravity and judgment is to resort to a pragmatic approach to ministry within the local church, often seen in an emphasis upon the felt needs of men and striving after cultural relevance; and,

WHEREAS the progressive element of sanctification is long and arduous for every believer as each grows in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, underscore the philosophy of ministry within the local church that prioritizes an emphasis on expository preaching, demonstrating confidence in the sufficiency of God's Word as the primary means of the believer becoming "adequate, equipped for every good work" (2Ti 3:17); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we exhort the people within our ministries to be individually involved in daily study and thoughtful application of God's Word so as to be "approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2Ti 2:15); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prayer be encouraged as the proper response to the Word of God, whether received through individual study or by preaching from the pulpit; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the churches within our fellowship to conduct genuine times of prayer whereby God's people are able to focus on their dependency upon God's grace and glory in the midst of their own lives as well as in the lives of those whom their local churches affect; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we affirm that the goal of our ministries remains to see the Spirit of God using the Scriptures and prayer to accomplish Christ's purpose of presenting "to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless." (Eph 5:27).

POSTMODERNISM

1999 - Eugene, OR

WHEREAS IFCA International has always believed and proclaimed the Bible to be the authoritative truth of God, and has repeatedly rejected any teaching which questions the reliability of God's truth in Scripture; and,

WHEREAS modernism (also called liberalism) has emphasized faith in human ability (rationalism) to understand the world, and has taught that the method by which we arrive at truth is through our own senses (empiricism); and,

WHEREAS modernism has held that any truth, such as moral and spiritual truth, that can not be observed and confirmed by scientific experimentation is relative; and,

WHEREAS postmodernism goes beyond this by denying modernism itself and maintaining that no truth of any kind exists in any objective sense; and,

WHEREAS postmodernism teaches that "truth", whether in religion, morals, education or science is created by a culture or an individual community and is "true" only in and for that culture; and,

WHEREAS postmodernism teaches that all meaning is subjectively bound up with the knower or interpreter rather than with the text or authorial intention; and,

WHEREAS postmodernism claims that anyone who unfavorably judges the beliefs, values, lifestyle or truth claims of another is involved in a power play to dominate others;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, expose postmodernism in its various manifestations and reaffirm the appropriateness of preaching God's Word as the objective authoritative truth for which all men are accountable; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we, by demonstrating a godly, holy life of love and faith in Jesus Christ confront the postmodernist belief that “freedom makes truth” so that they shall know the Truth that will set them free (Jn 8:32).

THE OPENNESS OF GOD CONTROVERSY

2000 - Rochester, MN

WHEREAS the Scriptures declare that God possesses absolute foreknowledge of all things, both real and potential, in the execution of His sovereignty and grace (Mt 11:20-24; Dt 29:29; 1Pe 1:2); and,

WHEREAS predictive prophecy is dependent upon both the omniscience and omnipotence of our sovereign God (Is 46:9-10; Eph 1:11); and,

WHEREAS an immutable God cannot change or improve in His decrees because new information cannot be brought to bear upon His knowledge (Mal 3:6; Job 12:13),

WHEREAS a seriously defective view of God, known as the “openness of God,” is spreading among evangelicals, which teaches that God does not and cannot foreknow the responsible future choices of humans, angels, or demons with complete certainty, as is declared in the following statements:

1. “So God can’t foreknow the good or bad decisions of the people He creates until He creates these people and they, in turn, create their decisions.” (Gregory Boyd, *Letters From a Skeptic*, Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1994, p. 30); and,

2. “God faces too many possibilities in the future, and not only certainties. God too moves into a future, not wholly known, because it is not yet fixed.” (Clark Pinnock, *From Augustine to Arminius: A Pilgrimage in Theology*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990, pp. 25-26); and,

WHEREAS a bad theology not only hurts people, who will pay the price in sin, suffering, and condemnation, but, what is more important, it dishonors God; and,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, do reaffirm the truths of Scripture that God is omniscient, omnipotent, immutable, and sovereign; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent by our president to Dr. John Piper and Dr. Norman Geisler to encourage them in their efforts to defend these truths and to Baker Book House to express our great disappointment for publishing Gregory Boyd’s recent book on the openness of God, *God of the Possible*;

AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we encourage our members and churches to teach and preach the great Scriptural truths of God’s absolute foreknowledge, sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, and immutability.

PRAYER’S PRIORITY

2000 - Rochester, MN

WHEREAS in prayer has become a battleground, as seen in recent United States Supreme Court decisions, such that the practical effect has been to banish prayer from much of public life; and,

WHEREAS prayer is a characteristic of people who have genuine faith in God and does not just reflect a doctrine of the church, (Ac 2); and,

WHEREAS prayer is an expression of our consciousness of the sovereign work of the Almighty (Ac 4:24-31); and,

WHEREAS the New Testament emphasis is on continuing in prayer (Ac 1:14; 1Th 5:17); thus, it is to be persistent loyalty at the throne of God (Heb 4:16); and,

WHEREAS our movement has so stated in our Vision Statement Goals a commitment of our member churches to prayer and the implementation of an IFCA International Week of Prayer;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, do renounce self-reliance and self-sufficiency, and reaffirm our dependence upon Almighty God, acknowledging the priority of prayer, (Ac 6:4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in meekness and humility we resolve before God to be more constant in all prayer, but especially adoration, thanksgiving, petition, confession, communion, intercession (Eph 6:18; Php 4:6-7; 1Ti 2:1); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in sincere repentance, each member and church should pray and seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways, beseeching Him to forgive our sin and heal our land.

CHRISTIANS IN A SECULAR SOCIETY

2000 - Rochester, MN

WHEREAS in today's cultural and religious pluralism religious conservatives are losing their public influence in the war of ideas; and,

WHEREAS a Christian is called into an inescapable and irreconcilable conflict with the world (John 17:14); and,

WHEREAS we as Christians wish to engage our society, rather than alienate ourselves from it or live in cultural isolation (Mt 5:13-16, 2Co 2:14,15);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, do reaffirm our responsibilities as Christian people to more persuasively, as well as more urgently, become involved in issues of biblical morality (Ro 13:1-3; ITi 2:2; Tit 3:1-2); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm the Church's primary mission is not to "Christianize" the culture, but evangelize its people (Mt 28: 19-20; Ac 1:8); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our calling to demonstrate to people submission to the authority of Scripture and integration of the truths of Scripture into our lives (Eph 4:17-24; 5:8), translating God's Word into lives marked by biblical holiness; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we acknowledge the primary issue is not whether Christians should be involved in politics, but rather the most prudent way to express our convictions and exert our godly influence; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that while neither the Church nor the Gospel should be politicized, we affirm that political involvement is right, good, and necessary, but reject its over emphasis and distortion.

TRAINING FOR AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES FOR RESOLVING CONFLICT BIBLICALLY (CONCILIATION)

2000 - Rochester, MN

WHEREAS we live in a world of increasing conflict; and,

WHEREAS our churches, church leaders and families within IFCA International are being pummeled by conflicts from without and within; and,

WHEREAS the Scriptures admonish us not to take our conflicts before unbelieving authorities, but rather to seek peaceful resolution within the context of believers (1Co 6:1); and,

WHEREAS the members and delegates present at the Seventieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, adopted a resolution on Conflict Resolution; and

WHEREAS both society and Christian community, as well as state laws, are moving toward requiring mediators and arbitrators to be trained and certified;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm our commitment to biblical conflict resolution; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the IFCA International pursue the development of training and certifying Christian conciliators who will be qualified to train local church leaders how to conduct biblical conflict resolution within their respective fellowships, or serve as arbitrators if necessary; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the materials and resources currently available from Peacemaker® Ministries be adapted for utilization in the process of assisting with the implementation of this purpose for IFCA International churches; and, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that IFCA International adopt the Peacemaker's® Pledge as a standard guiding document, and encourage our churches and regionals to do likewise.

PERSECUTED BELIEVERS

2001 – St. Petersburg, FL

WHEREAS the New Testament affirms (Php 1:27-30; 2Ti 3:12; 1Pe 4:1; et al) and demonstrates (Ac 9:1-5; 2Co 11:23-28; Jas 1:1-4; Rev 2:10; et al) that Christians can expect persecution as stated by our Sovereign Lord, "...If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..." (Jn 15:20); and

WHEREAS the history of the Church clearly records periods of extreme persecution; and,

WHEREAS the persecution of believers continues at alarming levels today, often without our awareness; and,

WHEREAS many of our persecuted brothers and sisters may feel increasingly isolated from the support and spiritual encouragement of the body; and

WHEREAS we are told that when one member of the body suffers then all the members suffer (1Co 12:26) and we are commanded to "remember the prisoners as if chained to them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also" (Heb 13:3),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-second Annual Convention of IFCA International express our support of and compassion for the persecuted members of the body of Christ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the members of our Fellowship to increase their awareness of the continuing persecution of Christians throughout the world in order to keep themselves and others informed of the need and of our responsibility toward those being persecuted; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request the Executive Director of IFCA International to assist with our awareness by providing information and resources pertaining to this issue through the VOICE magazine, the IFCA web page, and other resources available to him; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the leadership and members of our congregations to pray regularly and fervently for those being persecuted; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we challenge our church families to seek ways to encourage those being persecuted by communicating with them and/or the organization with which they are associated.

MISSIONS

2002 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS the Great Commission is still the command for the church today and is the directive of our Savior before His ascension (Mt 28:17-20); and

WHEREAS the history of the church clearly records periods of extreme persecution and in the last year we have learned of the home going of Dave Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff who served with New Tribes Mission in Colombia, Roni Bowers with her daughter, Charity, who served in Peru with Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, and the recent death of Martin Burnham, a

member of Rose Hill Bible Church (member), Rose Hill, Kansas, and missionary serving in the Philippines with New Tribes Mission; and,

WHEREAS many religious groups have expressed their opposition to the cause of Christ in increasingly hostile ways, fulfilling the Scripture that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2Ti 3:12); and

WHEREAS the Scriptures designate the local church as the sending agency for those God calls to missionary service (Ac 13:1-4) whether at home or abroad; and,

WHEREAS the Scriptures designate the local church as the sending agency for those God calls to missionary service (Ac 13:1-4) whether at home or abroad; and,

WHEREAS there is presently a great need for missionaries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-third Annual Convention of IFCA International, express our heartfelt sympathies to the families of these martyrs who gave their lives in the service of Jesus Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our commitment to fulfill the Great Commission, recognizing God’s sovereign call of gifted people to build His church (Eph 4:11); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution along with a letter of condolence be sent by the Executive Director to the families of these missionaries martyred for Christ as well as to their mission agencies, and that we ask our churches to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His field (Mt 9:37-38).

TODAY’S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

2002 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS the historic position of IFCA International has been “We believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed” (2Ti 3:16,17; 2Pe 1:20,21; Mt 5:18; Jn 16:12,13) and;

WHEREAS we have a responsibility as people of God to maintain the accuracy of biblical text for present and future generations; and,

WHEREAS translation practices which strive for “political correctness” above accuracy fail to reflect the fact that the very words of Scripture are given by God; and,

WHEREAS these principles of translation have great potential for either obscuring or distorting the doctrines of Scripture resulting in grave error; and,

WHEREAS the 68th Annual Convention of IFCA International raised concerns about the gender inclusive translation practices of Zondervan Corporation and The International Bible Society; and,

WHEREAS Zondervan Corporation, as part of its marketing strategy, has falsely equated the translation group of the Today’s New International Version with that of the New International Version;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-Third Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm our historic doctrinal position concerning the Word of God; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reject translation philosophies that degrade the authority and power of the very words of Scripture given by God as reflected in Today New International Version produced by the International Bible Society and Zondervan Corporation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the entire constituency of IFCA International to guard against the incipient dangers of translations which result from these translation philosophies; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and a letter be sent to the International Bible Society and Zondervan Corporation.

Ref: Zondervan promotional material on the TNIV

Christianity Today: “Bible Publishing – Hands Off My NIV!” 6-16-97

Christianity Today: “TNIV Critics blast Scripture Distortion” 4-2002

THE CHURCH AGE

2002 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS IFCA International believes that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph 1:22-23; Eph 5:25-27; 1Co 12:12-14; 2Co 11:2); and,

WHEREAS we further believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Ac 14:27; Ac 20:17,28-32; 1Ti 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-11) and,

WHEREAS it is being proclaimed that the Church age has ended and the relevancy of local congregations is being denied; and,

WHEREAS we are clearly commanded not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb 10:25);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-third Annual Convention of IFCA International, affirm that we remain in the dispensation of the church which began on the Day of Pentecost; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm that Christ continues to build His Church (Mt 6:18; Eph 2:20) using gifted individuals for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4:11-12) and that His building ministry will continue until the rapture (1Th 4:13-18); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the people of our Fellowship to renew their commitment to the local church (Eph 1:22-23; Eph 3:1-27; Col 1:21-23), to encourage each other to love and good works (Heb. 10:25) and to teach the importance of the local assembly in this evil world (Ac 20:28-32; Eph 4:11-16; Heb 13:7,17).

SUPPORT AND AFFIRMATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

2002 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS the Scripture affirms the unique position and role of the Jewish people in God's salvific and eschatological purposes and plans (Ro 11:1-36) and declares His everlasting love for the Jewish people (Jer 31:1); and,

WHEREAS we realize and embrace God's promise of blessing upon those who bless the Jewish people and His curse upon those who curse them (Ge 12:3); and,

WHEREAS we recognize, cherish, and value all brethren in every nation who call in faith upon the Lord Jesus Christ (Ac 10:34-43; Ro 10:11-13); and,

WHEREAS we detest the continued and persistent efforts of individuals to persecute the Jewish people; and,

WHEREAS we acknowledge that ultimate peace will not be delivered to Jerusalem or to the Jewish people until the return and earthly reign of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6-7; Da 9:24; Zec 8:1-8;14:11; Php 2:10).

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-third Annual Convention of IFCA International affirm the truth that God has not cast off Israel (Jer 31; Ro 11:1;25-26) and has made an everlasting covenant with them (Ge 17:7,8); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm our love and support for the Jewish people; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we denounce the bombing and acts of violence directed at and upon the Jewish people; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to pray for the Jewish people (Ro 9:1-5), the nation of Israel, and the peace of Jerusalem (Ps 122:6-9); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, along with a letter from our Executive Director, be sent to President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

HERMENEUTICS

2004 – Merrillville, IN

WHEREAS believers experience an assault by emerging culturally driven hermeneutical theories from our culture; and,

WHEREAS the focus on controversial contemporary issues among many professed Christians (e.g. homosexuality, evangelical feminism) has obscured the larger issue of how Christians interpret the Bible and,

WHEREAS the cultural approach to Scripture fails to recognize the authority of the biblical writers' intent;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates of the Seventy-fifth Annual Convention of IFCA International, hereby reaffirm our commitment to the literal-grammatical-historical interpretation of the Scriptures; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we reaffirm our commitment to inspiration, inerrancy, and the absolute authority and sufficiency of God's Word; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon those responsible for teaching God's Word within our Fellowship to practice interpretive principles and methods that will lead to biblically sound discernment in our times (1Ch 12:32).

MORAL DECAY AND THE MEDIA

2004 – Merrillville, IN

WHEREAS unregenerate men suppress the truth (Ro 1:18); and,

WHEREAS the trend among U.S. media outlets is one of antagonism to historically understood biblical values; and,

WHEREAS believers should always be ready to defend truth (1Pe 3:15);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-fifth Annual Convention of IFCA International, call upon our Fellowship to affirm their commitment to actively engage in opposing the moral decay so prevalent in our culture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on our Fellowship to communicate with local and national media outlets to graciously express disapproval of unacceptable media content; (Mt 10:16); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we also call upon our Fellowship to applaud the recent efforts by certain government agencies to curb moral decline in the media; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our Executive Director to draft a letter to major U.S. media outlets expressing our concern to the media for its insensitivity to people of moral conviction; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon our Fellowship to recommit themselves to holy living with a view to exerting a positive influence on our world (Tit 2: 8-13).

THE FAMILY

2004 – Merrillville, IN

WHEREAS God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society being composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption (Ge 1:26-28); and,

WHEREAS God has ordained marriage as the foundational relationship of the family (Ge 2:23-25; Mt 19:46); and,

WHEREAS the Bible defines marriage as the uniting of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant commitment for a lifetime (Mk 10:6-9); and,

WHEREAS marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, the means for procreation of the human race, and the platform for nurturing children (Eph 5:22-6:4); and,

WHEREAS current cultural trends, as realized in the recent decision by the highest court of Massachusetts, granting marital rights to homosexual couples, have redefined marriage and the family; and,

WHEREAS Defense of Marriage Acts (DOMA) are being challenged in various states; and,

WHEREAS the Federal Marriage Amendment under consideration in the U.S. Congress will define marriage as a union of one man and one woman;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-fifth Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm our commitment to the biblical definition of marriage and family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we firmly oppose any antibiblical redefining of marriage or family; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our pastors and teachers to clearly teach the biblical definition of marriage and family in the churches; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our Regional Presidents and our fellowship at large to communicate to their respective Senators and Representatives our support for the Federal Marriage Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our Executive Director to alert other likeminded faith groups to this concern; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we ask our Board of Directors to consider inserting a biblical statement on marriage and family into our Constitution and Bylaws.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

2005 – Baltimore, MD

WHEREAS God is the Creator and sustainer of life (Ge 1:21,27; Ps 139:13-16; Col 1:17); and,

WHEREAS God is sovereign over human life including disease and deformity (Ex 4:11; Dt 32:39; Jer 1:5; Jn 9:2-3); and,

WHEREAS mortality is a consequence of sin (Ge 2:17; 3:19; Ro 5:12; Heb 9:27); and,

WHEREAS human suffering always calls for Christian charity (Mt 14:14; 25:34-40; Jn 15:13; Gal 6:10; Jas 1:27; 2:15-16; 1Jn 3:17); and,

WHEREAS the sanctity of human life must always be considered when dealing with any quality of life issues (Ge 9:6; Ex 20:13; Ps 139: 13-16); and,

WHEREAS embryonic stem cell research violates these basic principles especially when aborting the unborn;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-sixth Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm our commitment to these basic biblical tenets; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask our constituents to call upon their medical professionals and elected representatives to honor these life principles and to confine this research to adult stem cells and that which conforms to these ethical parameters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be printed in the VOICE magazine; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the Executive Director to send a copy of this resolution and a letter to President George W. Bush to express our appreciation for his moral courage in seeing to implement these standards in the ongoing medical-political debate.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

2006 – Louisville, KY

WHEREAS God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac (Ge 17:20,21; 26:24), and Jacob (Ge 28:13-15) giving to them and to their descendants the land called Israel according to its ancient biblical boundaries (Ge 13:14-17; 15:18-21; 17:6-8; Ex 3:8; Jos 1:2-4; Jdg 2:1); and,

WHEREAS the archeological record affirms the Jewish people to have unbroken presence in the Land for 3,500 years; and

WHEREAS the State of Israel has continuously struggled to live in peace with her neighbors, and has been joined by Jordan and Egypt in signing peace treaties, in the midst of multiple nations and radical elements desiring the complete annihilation of the Jewish State and people; and

WHEREAS the existence of the State of Israel is a manifestation that God will draw them back to the Land from every nation as He has promised (Dt 30:1-5) which will achieve its fullest expression in the Kingdom (Is 11:11-12; Jer 16:14-15; Eze 36:19,24,28; 37:1-10; Zec 2:12); and,

WHEREAS the State of Israel, like all divinely ordained governments, has the right to defend its citizens (Ge 9:5-6; Ro 13:1-4) and the responsibility to do so justly (Nu 35: 9-34; Dt 19:15-21; 20:1-20) against aggression; and

WHEREAS IFCA International completely, without hesitation, rejects anti-Semitism, as well as all racial hatred; and,

WHEREAS we believe the Church has been grafted into “the olive tree” (Ro 11:17-18), the place of covenantal blessing (Ro 11:28-32; Eph 2:11-15), we have a great debt of gratitude to (Jn 4:22; Ro 3:2) and prophetic hope with Israel (Rev 19:7 – 20:6); and,

WHEREAS we as dispensationalists realize that the Church has not replaced Israel (Ro 11:1-5) and that prophecies of Israel’s complete restoration will yet be fulfilled; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED That the members and delegates present at the Seventy-seventh Annual Convention of IFCA International, renew our commitment to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps 122:6); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we affirm the Jew’s moral and legal right to national peace and security in the land; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to biblical integrity in the chaos and confusion of this continuous struggle; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be printed in the Voice magazine, that copies be sent to President George W. Bush, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and to the Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

2007 – Tulsa, OK

WHEREAS the United States of America has been the hopeful economic and democratic destination of millions in the world seeking freedom and an improved economic lifestyle; and

WHEREAS mankind is created in the image of God, therefore making people valuable before God and the world (Ge 1:27; 9:6; Ps 8:3-6; Jas 3:9), thus requiring some degree of responsibility and compassion toward the needs of the world (Gal 6:10); and,

WHEREAS some communities in the United States of America are experiencing troubles of crisis proportion in handling overwhelming numbers of illegal alien immigrants which tax social structures, educational capacities, and infrastructure in those communities; and,

WHEREAS much controversy surrounds this issue including use of the term “alien” which is defined by the US government as “any person not a citizen or national of the United States” (US Code, Title 8, Chapter 12, Subchapter 1, Section 1101, (a) (3)), thus an “illegal alien” is a person not a citizen or national of the United States here without permission of the US government; and,

WHEREAS Christians have a biblical responsibility to follow the rule of law (Ro 13:1-7) as well as reaching all with the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mt 28:18-20; Lk 24:47; Ac 1:8);

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International, recommit themselves to vigorously pursuing the Great Commission with any and all peoples (Mt 28: 19-20) as well as observing the Rule of Law (1Pe 2:13-15); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as we encounter illegal aliens, we encourage our churches and pastors to exercise compassion by preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God in order to lead them to salvation and maturity in Christ (Mic 6:8; Mt 25:40; Ro 13:8-10; Php 2:1-4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as we disciple illegal aliens, we will encourage them to comply with the Rule of Law as a matter of conscience and testimony (1Ti 2:1-4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as we counsel with illegal alien brothers, we will stand with them as they seek to change their status from illegal to legal, even if that means they return to their home country (Col 3:12-17; 1Pe 2:16-17); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we seek the Lord's guidance in each case and demonstrate grace in carrying out our biblical directives even as we seek to live as proper citizens of our nation (Ro 14:19).

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE AND THE NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL THEOLOGY

2007 – Tulsa, OK

WHEREAS false teachers in every age will arise who will distort the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ac 20:27-31; Gal 1:6-9; 2Ti 3:1-9; 2Jn 7-11; Jude 3-4); and,

WHEREAS the Scriptures are the only authoritative source of God's truth having been given by inspiration and inerrant in their original autographs (2Ti 3:16-17; 2Pe 1:16-21); and

WHEREAS there has been a recent attack against the Pauline doctrine of justification by faith alone based on penal substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ which is imputed to the believer through faith (Ro 3:21-25a; 2Co 5:21; Php 3:9-10); and,

WHEREAS this attack, called New Perspective on Paul (NPP), comes primarily from the writings of E.P. Sanders, James D.G. Dunn, and N.T. Wright; and

WHEREAS NPP has a flawed view of biblical doctrine of justification by faith alone denying the forensic penal substitutionary work of Christ on the cross negating the need of justification by grace through faith alone and eliminating imputation of Christ's righteousness to the believer; and,

WHEREAS NPP no longer sees justification by faith as accurate since they assert that justification is not imputing Christ's righteousness to sinners, but a declaration that one is already in the community of faith and only needs to fulfill the requirements of obeying the law; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-eighth Annual Convention of IFCA International, affirm their commitment to the clarity, inspiration, and authority of the inerrant Word (2Ti 3:15-16); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Fellowship affirms the truths that both Jesus and Paul, in their teaching, asserted that Judaism taught a self-righteous works-oriented salvation that could not save from sin (Mt 23:1-36; Lk 18:9-14; Ro 10:1-4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Fellowship affirms that justification is absolutely essential for salvation from sin and that justification is based on a penal substitutionary atonement whereby Jesus Christ died in our place, shedding His precious blood for our sin covering (Ro 3:21-28; 2Co 5:21; 1Pe 1:18-19); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Fellowship affirms that the sinner receives Christ's righteousness by imputation (Php 3:9-10); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Fellowship affirms that salvation and justification are received by faith alone in Christ alone through grace alone;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we urge our Fellowship to make every effort to preach and teach these cardinal truths unequivocally and with clarity.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

2008 – Eugene, OR

WHEREAS parents often have no plan or strategy for the spiritual development of their children; and,

WHEREAS too many parents in the church want their children to have strong faith, yet do not feel equipped to pass it on to the next generation; and,

WHEREAS too few church-going families pray together, read the Bible together, or worship together in the home; and,

WHEREAS born-again Christians are experiencing a divorce rate far too high; and

WHEREAS too many women having abortions are professing evangelical Christians; and

WHEREAS too many evangelical children are leaving the church and the Christian faith shortly after they graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS too many churches are entertaining rather than equipping the saints for ministry;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International that IFCA pastors and churches recommit to training and supporting families to “teach the generation to come to set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments” (Ps 78).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches be encouraged to launch an effective family ministry strategy that strengthens marriages and equips parents to nurture faith at home.

THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

2008 – Eugene, OR

WHEREAS the definition of marriage is primarily a biblical and moral concern rather than a civil, social, or political issue; and,

WHEREAS Scripture defines marriage as a man leaving mother and father and being joined to his wife (Eph 5:31; Ge 2:24-25; Mt 19:4-6); and,

WHEREAS the redefinition of marriage is an emphasis in several U.S. states and a battle in the realms of public opinion, the judiciary, and political election; and,

WHEREAS the Church, as the pillar and ground of the truth, must stand on the basis of biblical and moral concerns (1Ti 3:15); and,

WHEREAS governments are ordained by God for the punishment of evildoers, the protection of the innocent, the defense of long-established economic, social, and civil rights that accord with Holy Scripture, and the preservation of justice and social harmony, thus governments are accountable to, and act only under the authority of an omnipotent God; and,

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of all Christians both to pray for those in authority and to be salt and light in the culture in which God has placed us by humbly, peaceably, but courageously contending for Scriptural principles in the public square; and,

WHEREAS the family is the incubator not only of faith but of citizenship and sound morals, and that public policies that undermine the institution of the family or attempt to redefine it to include homosexual couples are contrary both to Scripture and to sound reason;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International, that IFCA churches and pastors stand united in the conviction that marriage is the holy union of one man and one woman for life, ordained by God Himself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our churches and pastors teach publicly concerning the Biblical definition of marriage and refuse the immoral practice of joining homosexuals in a union falsely defined as marriage; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that IFCA constituents, as Christian citizens, be encouraged to vote in accordance with the pressing need to uphold the biblical definition of marriage.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

2008 – Eugene, OR

WHEREAS in 2006 Planned Parenthood received more than a third of its nearly \$1 billion budget from government grants and contracts; and,

WHEREAS Planned Parenthood performed more than a quarter million abortions last year alone; and,

WHEREAS abortion is murder; and,

WHEREAS U.S. tax dollars cannot by law be used to fund abortions at family planning clinics in foreign countries;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International, that the federal government should eliminate any and all funding to Planned Parenthood and other “family planning” clinics in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IFCA constituents contact their Senators and/or other elected representatives asking them to act according to this resolution.

PARENTAL OVERSIGHT OF EDUCATION

2008 – Eugene, OR

WHEREAS it is the fundamental, God-given, Constitutional right and responsibility of parents to oversee the education of their children, either personally or by delegation; and

WHEREAS parents are best equipped to make education-related decisions for their progeny based on their children’s specific needs, and as dictated by their faith and conscience; and,

WHEREAS numerous studies confirm that children who are educated at home score considerably above the average of their peers on national standardized tests (including the SAT and ACT).

WHEREAS it has been reported that approximately 166,000 students in the state of California are currently home educated and over 2 million children across the nation are currently being schooled at home.

WHEREAS families who engage in home-education are not dependent on any federal education funding, and that home educated children represent an estimated \$16 billion per annum in education funds that taxpayers do not have to pay; and,

WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court has ruled that parents have a fundamental and constitutional right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, (*Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 (1923), and *Wisconsin v. Yoder* 406 U.S. 205 (1972));

WHEREAS on February 28, 2008, the Court of Appeals for the Second Appellate District in Los Angeles, California, issued an opinion in the case of *In re Rachel L.*, stating that parents who do not hold a valid state teaching credential in each grade they teach cannot legally teach their children at home; and

WHEREAS the effect of the California Second Appellate District Court of Appeals decision is contrary to the United States Supreme Court’s rulings in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, *Meyer v. Nebraska*, and *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, as indicated above

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Seventy-ninth Annual Convention of IFCA International, hereby calls upon the California Court of Appeals and/or the California Supreme Court to reverse the opinion in question and recognize the fundamental, God-given, Constitutional right and responsibility of parents to oversee the education of their children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IFCA constituents, especially from California, ask their elected representatives or judges to act according to this resolution.

HOLY AND PRUDENT PULPIT SPEECH

2009 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS some ministers have exploited our decaying culture’s obsession with sexuality to promote their churches and gain media notoriety; and,

WHEREAS some prominent evangelical pastors have earned a reputation for course, even indecent language from their pulpits and in print; and,

WHEREAS lewd humor has become a mark of “cutting edge ministry among some Bible-believing ministers; and

WHEREAS some in defending such practices claim the Bible itself is R-rated, crude, and sexually explicit; and,

WHEREAS some of these leaders in ministry have gone beyond the scope of pastoral authority, using their view of a sexually explicit Bible to browbeat their sisters in Christ to imitate and compete with pornographic fantasies in their marriages, even daring to claim Christ commands them to do this, and,

WHEREAS the Apostle Paul, ministering to a coarse, sex-saturated pagan culture, never spoke in graphic sexual language, but by teaching and example honored human sexuality in a holy and sanctified way, raising the moral vision of God’s people rather than pulling it down; and

WHEREAS the Apostle Paul admonishes us all to “let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:29); and,

WHEREAS the Apostle contends that some things are “disgraceful even to speak of: (Eph 5:12), and that “filthiness, silly talk and coarse jesting” are not fitting for a holy people (Eph 5:4); and,

WHEREAS Scripture itself, though at times direct, is never lewd or obscene, and wisely uses metaphor and poetic imagery to veil intimate things from the uninitiated, as in the beautiful Song of Solomon;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Eightieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, that IFCA pastors and leaders reject any attempt to appeal to the world by lowering our standards of holiness in speech and conduct, and we call upon all pastors and ministry leaders to be an example in “speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity” (1Ti 4:12), and to be “dignified, sound in speech which is above reproach” (Tit 2:7).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, while intimate relations in marriage for believers are designed by God for pleasure and delight within the sacred bond, and the details of what goes on behind closed doors are neither defined nor prescribed in Scripture, such details are not for public airing, nor should such private joy be the occasion for lewd comments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pastors and teachers learn to defend the Scripture from the charge of being raunchy and explicit, and familiarize themselves with answers to such false claims in the spirit of Titus 1:9.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the lost be won with love expressed in holy conduct; and let all who love the lost not appeal to their flesh, but, like our Lord Himself, patiently speak truth to all classes and kinds of sinners while maintaining the highest personal standards of conduct according to the pure Word of God.

POPULARIZATION OF NON-CESSATIONISM

2009 – Kalamazoo, MI

WHEREAS IFCA International is firmly committed to the truth that “the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established;” and,

WHEREAS the signs and wonders movement, also called non-cessationism, is based on a faulty interpretation of the kingdom of God, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the nature and use of spiritual gifts, the finality of biblical revelation, and an unbiblical world view; and,

WHEREAS non-cessationist influence is gaining notoriety through the ministries of notable Bible teachers and conference speakers who are orthodox on other major Christian doctrines such as God’s grace (eg. C.J. Mahaney) and the spirit-driven desire for God (eg. John Piper) but embrace the non-cessationist position; and,

WHEREAS many within the Christian community are being drawn to these men through the gifted articulation of various theological tenets of Soteriology (study of salvation); and

WHEREAS some of those enamored by the notoriety and celebrity of these teachers are allowing concerns for theological precision on cessationism to be relegated to irrelevancy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Eightieth Annual Convention of IFCA International, reaffirm their belief and conviction concerning the doctrinal position of IFCA on “The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts” (Art. IV, sec.1, [11]); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon the Christian community to recognize the theological dangers of allowing deviation from the cessationist view of the final and established authority of Scripture; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while appreciating areas of orthodoxy embraced by teachers of God’s Word, it is noble-minded that when one receives teaching from God’s Word, they examine the Scriptures to see whether these things are so; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to identifying and rejecting teachings that violate God’s Word and contradict the doctrinal statement of IFCA International.

HUMAN SEXUALITY

2010 – Springfield, IL

WHEREAS there is in our nation, even within the “Christian community,” a growing movement of sexual immorality advocating premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality as lifestyles to be accepted as normative in our culture and society; and,

WHEREAS there are those in positions of religious authority willing to yield to the demands that these immoral activities be labeled as acceptable and respectable; and

WHEREAS the Scriptures are clear that premarital and extra-marital sex are immoral and sinful (1Co 6:15-20; Ge 2:24); and,

WHEREAS the bible is clear that homosexuality is not a legitimate alternative lifestyle, but is rather a gross sin indicative of the depth of man’s rebellion against God (Ro 1:26-27; 1Co 6:9-10),

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members and delegates present at the Eighty-first Annual Convention of IFCA International, go on record as affirming chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage as the only biblical standard of human sexuality; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we go on record as being opposed to any movement that would recognize homosexuality as anything but gross sin; and,

BE IT (FINALLY?) RESOLVED that while we view premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and homosexuality as sin, we do view those engaged in such practices as objects of the grace of God to be reached and won to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great Savior of sinners.

ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

2011 – Ft. Mitchell, KY

WHEREAS a highly publicized book entitled Love Wins by Rob Bell resurrects the traditional theological error known as universalism, suggesting that all human persons will be saved and that the Bible's teaching about eternal judgment and literal hell is misguided, morally suspect, and not in fact biblical or Christian; and,

WHEREAS this author claims the support of Jesus for this strand of teaching, calling into question the goodness of a God who would issue a judgment of eternal condemnation against all but a few; and,

WHEREAS the author's status as pastor of a large, acclaimed church, his general popularity, and his education by and association with evangelicals lend a widespread influence of his teaching;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the members and delegates present at the Eighty-second Annual Convention of IFCA International, as follows:

RESOLVED that when Jesus was asked if few would be saved, He responded with the words, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able... There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out," (Lk 13:24, 28);

RESOLVED that the reality and existence of a literal hell are required by the teaching of the Old Testament prophets, the New Testament apostles, and by the plain teaching of Jesus Himself who referred to and warned against hell in vivid and unmistakable terms (Ps 73:18-19, 27; Mt 23:33, 25:46; Mk 9:43-48; Rev 20:11-15);

RESOLVED that this teaching of Jesus has been maintained consistently by mainstream, historic Christianity which delights in both God's justice and mercy;

RESOLVED that Jesus and the New Testament authors clearly taught that salvation occurs through a simple, sincere act of saving faith in Jesus as the promised Jewish Messiah whose crucifixion and blood atonement vicariously satisfy the eternal justice of God and secure eternal life in place of eternal death in the lake of fire for all who believe and only those who believe (Ro 3:24-26; Jn 1:12; 3:16; Ac 16:31; Col 1:13-14; Rev 21:8);

RESOLVED that this free, unmerited offer of salvation available to any person through such a simple act of faith is indeed the best Good News the world has ever heard, and the fact that so few in fact avail themselves of the offer does not in the least reflect negatively on the goodness of God (Ro 9:14-16ff);

RESOLVED that the teaching of the Scriptures on hell is fundamental to the nature of the love of God, which, like His goodness, is not contradicted but authenticated by His willingness to condemn all evil and those who practice it unrepentantly, so the objects of His love are thereby enabled to receive not only the promise of a world totally rid of evil, but the ultimate and quintessential gift of love: the local and intimate presence of God Himself, who cannot dwell where any evil, unbelief, or rebellion against Him remains.

On the basis of the foregoing, in the sincere desire both that non-Christians everywhere might be reached with the Good News of Christ's eternal salvation from the eternal torments of hell and that Christians and churches everywhere might be built up on a sound faith for the glory of God, the 2011 Convention of IFCA International urges our men and churches to carefully teach the goodness, love, and justice of God which provide both eternal life for all who place their faith in Christ and also mete eternal punishment upon all who reject Him.

DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY AND HERMENEUTICS

2020 – Virtual Convention

WHEREAS Dispensational theology emerges from a consistent literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic; and,

WHEREAS IFCA International has been committed since its inception to a Dispensational understanding of Scripture; and,

WHEREAS many interpretative differences among believers result, not from the plain reading of Scripture, but from inconsistent application of the literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic to all texts of Scripture; and,

WHEREAS the IFCA has long rejected a dual hermeneutic, which approaches most of Scripture literally, but other portions allegorically; and

WHEREAS it has become increasingly popular for some, in their attempt to promote the gospel and exalt Christ, to do so by replacing the literal-grammatical-historical interpretive approach to Scripture with a redemptive-historical or Christocentric hermeneutic, which seeks to find Christ and redemption in every text of Scripture;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that IFCA International seeks to affirm the exaltation of both the gospel and Jesus Christ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that IFCA seeks to proclaim Christ and redemption from every biblical passage in which He has been placed by the Holy Spirit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where neither Christ nor the gospel is explicitly found in the text, that we refuse to place either there through the misuse of typology or through the use of a preconceived hermeneutical grid; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to the search for the authorial intent, both divine and human, behind every biblical text, through the careful use of the interpretation principles found in the literal-grammatical-historical approach to hermeneutics.

DISPENSATIONAL ESCHATOLOGY

2021 – Lincoln, NE

WHEREAS IFCA International has held since its inception a premillennial, pretribulationist eschatology; and

WHEREAS this eschatological understanding emerges from a literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic applied consistently to all texts of Scripture; and,

WHEREAS certain conservative theological traditions deny pretribulationism based upon an inconsistent use of literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutics, in which certain portions of Scripture, in particular prophetic sections, are interpreted non-literally; and

WHEREAS the use of inconsistent dual hermeneutic interpretation results in a variety of eschatological positions; and,

WHEREAS many conservative churches, seminaries, Bible colleges, and parachurch organizations no longer hold to an eschatological position, implying that eschatology is a secondary, nonessential theological concern;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that IFCA International affirms and proclaims its belief in pretribulationist premillennialism, which emerges from a consistent application of the use of the literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic methodology; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the members of IFCA International love and cherish fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ who take other end-time positions, nevertheless the members of IFCA International believe Scripture teaches pretribulationism; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that since pretribulationism proclaims the imminent return of Christ, that IFCA International fellowship rejoices in the knowledge, based on Scripture, that the rapture of the church could come at any moment (1Co 15:50-58; 1Th 4:13-18); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that proper understanding of the pretribulationist rapture leads to a motivation for living a godly life, as well as world-wide evangelism (1Co 15:58), knowing that Christ

could return for His church at any moment, therefore believers desire to be found serving Him when He returns (1Th 5:3-6); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the conviction of the imminent return of Christ brings a unique joy and expectation to the believer, and thus the members of IFCA International declare with great enthusiasm our confidence in a doctrine that provides robust hope and anticipation (Ti 2:11-15).

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2021 – Lincoln, NE

WHEREAS recently intensified attention concerning social justice in our world, and increasingly in the church, has become evident;

WHEREAS there is an imminent danger of the theologically conservative church losing its message and mission due to debates over issues such as critical race theory, intersectionality, wokeness, and secular philosophies, we affirm that the means by which the church is called to engage with and transform the culture (Eph 4: 14-15) is solely as a by-product of the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International affirm that the Scriptures call believers to proclaim the biblical gospel of redemption and reconciliation with a holy God; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International believe the gospel message to be centered on the self-revelation of the Triune God, most perfectly exegeted in Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14,18), expressed and explained throughout the entirety of the Scriptures; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International are united in their comprehension of the biblical gospel as centered on the good news of the cross-work of Christ, the only means of personal salvation (1Co 15:1-4); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International understand the goal and essence of the gospel is to call human beings out of a fallen world (Php 2:15), and from spiritual darkness (Eph 2:1-3), through deliverance available only by the grace of God, grounded in the redemptive work of Christ (Eph 2:8-9); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International are humbled that by God's grace, the influence of redeemed Spirit-indwelt believers has, on many occasions, resulted in enhanced justice, liberation of the oppressed, improvement of standards of living, and many other benefits to individuals and societies; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International acknowledge that racism, injustice, and violence are individual acts of sin, which have demeaning and harmful effects on individuals and society as a whole; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International recognize the solution is not to empower the less privileged with more perceived power, but to call all of mankind to faith in Jesus Christ; acknowledging Christ's bearing of divine wrath and justice on the cross on our behalf and the call to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us (Eph 4:32); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International, because of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, desire peace, strongly advocate for justice for all, and have an intense concern for the poor, needy, and the helpless. In appreciation that our God-given message is broader than the gospel, extending to the complete revelation of God, as found exclusively in the Scripture (2Ti 4:1-4); and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the members of IFCA International believe the church's mission and focus is given to us by our Lord; to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe the Lord's commandments (Mt 28:19-20). Therefore, we believe the church must call people to salvation (Ac 2:40), equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph 4:12), and rightly divide the Word of truth (2Ti 2:15), all to the glory of God (1Co 10:31).