

Annual Meeting  
7/17/2023  
Executive Board  
5/23/2023  
Institutional Relations Committee  
5/22/2023

**Item of**

**Consideration:** Recommendation for Baptist General Convention of Texas to relate to Baptist Standard Publishing by Special Agreement

**Highest Authority for this item:**

The messengers meeting at the 2023 Family Gathering of the Baptist General Convention of Texas

**Originating Source:**

The board of trustees of the Baptist Standard Publishing Co.

**Background:**

On March 5, 2020, Eric Black, Editor of the Baptist Standard, and leaders from their board of trustees met with BGCT executive leadership and informed them that the Baptist Standard Publishing Co. (BSP) board of trustees voted in December of 2019 to amend their Articles of Incorporation. The Baptist Standard then refiled their amended articles with the State of Texas on December 23, 2019, without the knowledge or consent of the BGCT leadership or Executive Board.

According to Article VIII, Section 2, Paragraph B of the BGCT Constitution: "The board of each institution affiliated with this Convention shall submit any and all changes or amendments to the institution's charter to the Executive Board for approval. Any changes that significantly alter the mission of the institution or the institution's relationship to The Baptist General Convention of Texas shall be referred to the Convention for approval."

When an affiliated institution wants to amend its articles of incorporation (or certificate of formation), the proper procedure is to present proposed amendments to the Institutional Relations Committee (IRC). Once amendments are approved by the IRC, the IRC will recommend the amended articles to the Executive Board for approval. If the amended articles do not change the relationship with the institution and the BGCT, the articles are considered amended once approved by the Executive Board. However, if the amended articles significantly alter the relationship between the institution and the BGCT, the Executive Board must recommend the adoption of the amended articles at the next annual meeting of BGCT messengers.

Legal counsel for the BGCT believed the changes to the BSP's articles of incorporation to significantly alter the relationship with the BGCT. Therefore, leaders from the BSP and the BGCT (including the IRC) have met for the past three years to discuss the relationship. The IRC voted at the September 2022 Executive Board meeting to pursue a Special Relationship Agreement.

**Background Attachments:** Relationship Agreement between the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Baptist Standard Publishing

**Recommendation:**

After much prayer and deliberation, the Institutional Relations Committee recommends the adoption of the Special Relationship Agreement between the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Baptist Standard Publishing be approved by the Executive Board and recommended for adoption by the messengers at the 2023 Family Gathering.