On the 140th Anniversary of the BGCT

WHEREAS, the first annual session of the Baptist General Convention of Texas was held at the First Baptist Church of Waco, from June 29-July 2, 1886; and

WHEREAS, B.H. Carroll led the way for five conventions and associations to set aside their preferences and their real and significant differences for the sake of harmony and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, Baptists in Texas at the time struggled with regionalism, debates surrounding landmark teachings, competing Baptist newspapers, how many Baptist universities we should have in Texas and if ministry and mission should only come out of the local church or be done by a convention or mission board; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of cooperation was demonstrated by combining two Baptist Universities, Waco University and Baylor University, under the name Baylor University at Waco; and

WHEREAS, in that first meeting the Baptist General Convention of Texas also demonstrated a partnership with Baylor Female College, now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and the Ministers Relief Board; and

WHEREAS, from its outset the Baptist General Convention of Texas exhibited a desire and effort to reach the diverse population of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the original constitution states “The objects of this Convention shall be missionary and educational, the promotion of harmony of feeling and concert of action among Baptists and a system of operative measures for the promotion of the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom;” and

WHEREAS, harmony does not come from everyone singing the same note, but from multiple voices singing notes that, when combined, form a sweet and unified sound; and

WHEREAS, over the years we have had important voices continue to call us back to unity, like Dr. R.C. Buckner, who was elected president of the Baptist General Convention in 1894 in order to promote peace in the midst of brewing controversy and remained in that position for 20 years, gaveling the convention to order with a bouquet of roses or white chrysanthemums as a symbol of peace and unity, entreating Baptists to "focus on the goal of mission enterprises rather than on internal squabbles"; and

WHEREAS, there have been countless men and women who have faithfully served the convention over the course of its history; and

WHEREAS, 140 years later, the Baptist General Convention of Texas is meeting in Waco, Texas, not far from the First Baptist Church of Waco; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize the 140th Anniversary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and strive for harmony and cooperation for the sake of the Redeemer's kingdom.