Resolution on Prayer for Believers in the Middle East

WHEREAS, the Scriptures call the people of God to “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15), and “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body” (Hebrews 13:3) and that “If one member suffers, all suffer together” (1 Corinthians 12:26); and

WHEREAS, the church was birthed in Jerusalem and expanded to the nations (Acts 1:8), leaving a Christian witness that has endured for two thousand years; and

WHEREAS, followers of Jesus continue to live and share the gospel in the cradle of Christianity; and

WHEREAS, these believers include Arabs, Messianic Jews and others frequently overlooked in Israel, Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and other countries in the region impacted by current conflict; and

WHEREAS, these believers are the small minority, and are living in armed conflict, some displaced, and experiencing loss of home, scarcity of food, water and medical care, and feeling the grief of lost loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul urged that “supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:1-2), and that King David pleaded for us to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Psalm 122:6); and

WHEREAS, Baptists have long affirmed the dignity of every person, made in the image of God, and the biblical command to care for the suffering and the persecuted church; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Texas Baptists call for churches to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East that God would protect them, strengthen their faith, provide for their needs and comfort those mourning; and

RESOLVED, that we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the entire region, for the protection of innocent civilians and for leaders to pursue justice and peace; that God would bring reconciliation among all people; and

RESOLVED, that we pray that the gospel would continue to be shared in the region and that people would come to faith in Christ.

RESOLVED, that we encourage Texas Baptists churches to lift up believers in the Middle East, to learn about their circumstances and to support mission initiatives that provide relief; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we express our love and solidarity with believers all over the globe, assuring them they are not forgotten by their family in Christ in Texas and that we lift them up to “the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).