Resolution on Religious Liberty

WHEREAS, saving faith is a voluntary response of an individual to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10; 14:12), and should not be coerced or prescribed by anyone or any government (Matthew 22:21); and

WHEREAS, the historic Baptist position affirms that civil government is ordained by God, not to carry on the work of the church, but to punish those who do wrong, to protect the weak and to promote goodness, justice and order in society (Romans 13:1-4); and

WHEREAS, state power should not be used to punish individuals or bar them from participation in the political process for religious beliefs or lack of religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, true religious liberty guarantees freedom of conscience, but does not allow for violation of just laws; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that Texas Baptists reaffirm our historic, unyielding commitment to soul competency and religious liberty, rejecting any attempt by the state to coerce faith, establish a national church or exclude those of any faith or no faith from the political process.