

Resolutions and Christian Life Committee Report

The Committee met March 10 to discuss potential resolutions to be presented at the 2026 IBSA Annual Meeting and assigned topics to members. The Committee then reviewed drafted resolutions at its September 3 meeting.

The Committee recommends the following resolutions for vote at the 2026 IBSA Annual Meeting. Any additional resolutions by messengers are to be submitted by 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. The Committee will meet to discuss any newly submitted resolutions, and either prepare those resolutions for presentation and vote at the afternoon session on Wednesday, November 4, or recommend that they be referred to the 2027 Resolutions and Christian Life Committee for further work and consideration.

Resolution on Appreciation for Metro Community Church of Edwardsville

WHEREAS, Metro Community Church has clearly demonstrated the gift of biblical hospitality in hosting the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Baptist State Association; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Seth Conerly along with the staff and members of Metro Community Church have reflected the cooperative spirit of the IBSA family by giving of their time, resources, and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the church has worked so tirelessly in full cooperation with IBSA officers, staff, and leadership of this meeting to ensure a successful and profitable annual meeting; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers of the 2026 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 3-4 at Metro Community Church in Edwardsville, Ill., express our deepest appreciation and commit to pray for God's continued blessing on his church as they seek to serve their community and the Lord, as He transforms lives through the power of the gospel.

Resolution of Appreciation for Sandy Wisdom-Martin on Her Retirement as Executive Director-Treasurer of WMU

WHEREAS, Sandy Wisdom-Martin has served the Woman's Missionary Union as its executive director-treasurer since October 2016, and announced her planned retirement beginning in January 2027; and

WHEREAS, Sandy Wisdom-Martin is an Illinois native, born in southern Illinois, the daughter of a coal miner; raised in an Illinois Baptist church; and

WHEREAS, in her teens she served as an Acteen and has referred to herself and some of her contemporaries as "Evelyn's girls," led by Evelyn Tully of Illinois WMU; often equipped for missions under her guidance at Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp; and

WHEREAS, she served on the state Acteens panel and several Acteens Activator mission teams and was the first recipient of the Darla Lovell Scholarship from Illinois WMU while studying at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and

WHEREAS, after serving as the Cooperative Program Missionary with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention from 1991-2001, Wisdom-Martin returned to Illinois where she became IBSA Director of Women's Missions and Ministries from 2001-2010; and served as president of Mississippi River Ministries and led the first international WMU Habitat for Humanity team, which traveled to Ghana to build houses; and

WHEREAS, she accepted a call south to Texas where she became executive director of Texas WMU in 2010 until beginning her tenure at national WMU in 2016; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure she has helped raise more than \$513.5 million for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and more than \$1.4 billion for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020, knowing that church attendance and giving would be down during the COVID-19 pandemic, she engaged WMU leaders across the country to handwrite more than 18,000 letters asking churches to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering; and

WHEREAS, she tirelessly highlighted the importance of the Cooperative Program giving through articles and speaking engagements, using her story-telling and creativity to demonstrate cooperation and the life-changing impact of churches working together, even leading out in the building of a floating house out of craft stick panels collected from children's missions groups and other volunteers across the country; and

WHEREAS, she worked incredibly hard to 'right-size' WMU's organization while also extending its reach, expanding the Pure Water, Pure Love grants program and reimagining leadership development opportunities through WMU's Christian Women's Leadership Center; and

WHEREAS, her commitment to the Christian ministry has been embodied by Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB), which declares, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the messengers to the 2026 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 3-4 at Metro Community Church in Edwardsville, Ill., express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Sandy Wisdom-Martin, given to our Lord and to Illinois Baptists, and that we assure her of the prayers, love and best wishes of this state association.

Resolution on Ending Chemical Abortions and Cherishing Human Life

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that all human life is sacred, created in the image of God from the moment of conception (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41), and that God's people are called to protect the innocent and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists have consistently affirmed the dignity and sanctity of preborn life and opposed all forms of abortion, including chemical abortion; and

WHEREAS, we give thanks to God for the United States Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the federal guarantee of abortion access; and

WHEREAS, despite this legal victory, abortion tragically persists due to the rising prevalence and promotion of chemical abortion, particularly through the drug regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol, commonly referred to as the abortion pill, which now accounts for approximately two-thirds of all abortions; and

WHEREAS, mifepristone works by blocking the hormone progesterone, depriving the developing baby of necessary nourishment, followed by misoprostol, which induces contractions to expel the deceased child, resulting in both the death of the child and often significant physical, emotional, and spiritual harm to the mother; and

WHEREAS, women are often denied full, truthful, and compassionate information about chemical abortion, which is increasingly administered through impersonal and unsafe means like telehealth and mail-order services—methods that can easily be misused or abused—while shield laws in some states enable the mailing of these drugs into states with abortion restrictions, undermining both the rule of law and the protection of unborn life; and

WHEREAS, a 2025 study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center¹ found that serious adverse events such as hemorrhaging, sepsis, infection, and emergency surgery occurred in a significantly higher percentage of women who underwent mifepristone abortions than the rates previously reported by the Food and Drug Administration, revealing that the actual risks far exceed what is stated on the drug's label; and

WHEREAS, these outcomes have been exacerbated by the weakening of the Food and Drug Administration's safeguards, including the removal of in-person physician oversight and mandatory adverse event reporting, endangering women and reducing public accountability; and

WHEREAS, the original approval process for mifepristone wrongly labeled pregnancy as a "serious or life-threatening illness," thus treating a natural and healthy condition as a pathology and undermining the dignity of both mother and child; and

WHEREAS, HB 4834, also known informally as the "prescription privacy law," removes mifepristone and misoprostol from the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program, making the prescription and consumption of such drugs easier; and

WHEREAS, Christ calls his church to defend both mother and child and to advocate for a culture of life marked by truth, compassion, and care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2026 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 3-4 at Metro Community Church in Edwardsville, Ill. reaffirm the immeasurable value of every human life, both born and preborn; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we grieve the continued destruction of preborn lives through chemical abortion and condemn the exploitation of women by an abortion industry increasingly reliant on dangerous drugs and deceptive practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon the Food and Drug Administration to immediately revoke its approval of mifepristone for use in abortions, restore all previously removed safety protocols, and reevaluate chemical abortion drugs using real-world data; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the Illinois legislature to pass laws banning the manufacture, sale, and distribution of chemical abortion drugs, to enforce the Comstock Act prohibiting the mailing of abortion pills, and to hold accountable pharmaceutical companies and medical providers complicit in these harms; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage pastors, churches, and ministries to speak the truth about abortion, to equip their congregations to care for women in crisis with compassion and practical support, and to proclaim the healing hope of the gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on those considering chemical abortion to pursue alternative solutions which protect and promote life; and be it further

¹ Hall, J. B., & Anderson, R. T. (2025, April 28). The abortion pill harms women: Insurance data reveals one in ten patients experiences a serious adverse event. Ethics and Public Policy Center. <https://eppc.org/publication/insurance-data-reveals-one-in-ten-patients-experiences-a-serious-adverse-event/>

RESOLVED, that we commit ourselves to fostering a culture of life through the tangible support of pregnancy resource centers, adoption efforts, maternal health care, and compassionate ministry to post-abortive women; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we commit to pray and labor for the end of all forms of abortion by guaranteeing preborn human beings their constitutional right to life and liberty, and to seek the establishment of a society that cherishes and defends every human life from conception to natural death.

Resolution Calling for a Renewal of Our Original Commitments

WHEREAS, the first meetings that would lead to the founding of the Illinois Baptist State Association took place in Pinckneyville, Ill., December 6, 1906, 120 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the mission of these founding churches was “the planting and supporting of Baptist churches” in both the rural communities and urban centers of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the state of Illinois has grown exponentially since the founding of the Illinois Baptist State Association; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is a state where an estimated 9 million people, or 75% of the population, do not know Jesus as their personal savior; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists have faced major changes to our state and our culture during our 119 years as an incorporated organization of churches; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists have had consistent reliable leadership for the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, during these past 20 years Illinois Baptists have embraced “The Acts 1:8 Challenge” under the previous administration’s leadership and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the messengers to the 2026 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 3-4 at Metro Community Church, Edwardsville, Ill., recognize Illinois Baptists are looking to new leadership for continued stability as well as renewed commitment to our original purposes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists remember the original and founding purposes of the Illinois Baptist State Association; to unite local churches, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and establish new churches and ministries throughout Illinois; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists engage in the “Acts 1:8 Challenge” all the more as we continue to face lostness in our state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists look to the new leadership for their direction in cooperative mission moving forward, trusting their God given calling to these new positions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists embrace the message of John 15:5, that Christ is the vine and we are the branches. This interconnected vision for Illinois Baptists serves us well in our pursuit of healthy, fruitful discipleship in our churches; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists focus on the lostness surrounding us in the state of Illinois and allow this to reignite in our hearts a passion for the lost and a renewed commitment to the gospel.

Respectfully submitted:

Frank Forthman Jr.
Raymond Gregory
Blake Harding
John Howard, Vice Chair
Barbara Lee
James Shannon
Barry Sink
Nancy Starr
John Truax, Secretary
Jason Webb, Chair

2027 Officers:

John Truax, Chair
Raymond Gregory, Vice Chair
Barbara Lee, Secretary