

**RESOLUTION ON WOMEN IN MINISTRY**  
GENERAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA  
ANNUAL SESSION, OCTOBER 22-26, 2023, SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, Both men and women are created in the image of God, sharing equal value, dignity, and worth, and are commissioned by God (Genesis 1:26–28); and

WHEREAS, Scripture calls women to obey Christ’s Great Commission and demonstrates women are crucial and indispensable to His mission (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 2:17–18); and

WHEREAS, Hagar was a woman seen by God (Genesis 16:13), Shiphrah and Puah protected the children of God (Exodus 1:15–20), Miriam proclaimed the glory of God (Exodus 15:20–21), the daughters of Zelophehad influenced the making of a new law by God to allow women to own land (Numbers 27:1–7), Rahab saved her family from certain death, (Joshua 6:22–25), Deborah judged God’s people (Judges 4:4–9), Jael delivered Israel (Judges 4:17–22), Hannah prayed for and dedicated her child to God (1 Samuel 1:10–11), Huldah prophesied God’s judgment and mercy (2 Chronicles 34:22–28), Ruth and Naomi exemplified loyalty to God (Ruth 1:16), and Esther risked her life for the sake of the people of Israel (Esther 4:16); and

WHEREAS, Anna proclaimed the arrival of the Messiah (Luke 2:36–38), and many women, including Mary Magdalene, Mary, and Salome, followed Jesus and financially supported His earthly ministry (Mark 15:40–41, Luke 8:1–3), remained with him through His crucifixion (Matthew 27:55–56), and were commissioned as the original witnesses to and proclaimers of His resurrection (Matthew 28:1–10, Luke 24:1–10); and

WHEREAS, Lois and Eunice cultivated a biblical legacy in the family (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14–15), Phoebe served the church and contributed to its mission (Romans 16:1–2), Lydia and Priscilla led churches that met in their homes (Acts 16:14–15, 40; 1 Corinthians 16:19), Priscilla supported the apostles and clarified Christian doctrine (Acts 18:18, 26), Euodia and Syntyche were gospel co-laborers (Philippians 4:2–3), Philip’s daughters prophesied (Acts 21:9), and God commanded women to pass their faith through the generations (Titus 2:3–5); and

WHEREAS, Black women clergy like Jarena Lee, Julia Foote, Ida B. Robinson, Prathia Hall and many others were among the earliest 20<sup>th</sup> Century pastors, preachers, and missionaries who spent their lives propagating the gospel for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Women today serve courageously, sacrificially, and selflessly in our General Baptist churches and entities, and in a multitude of contexts around the world, as pastor and through preaching, teaching, praying, giving, and obeying the Great Commission of our only Lord Jesus Christ; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Board to the General Baptist Convention met in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 4, 2023 and affirmed God's authoritative call to all Christian women to fulfill the Great Commission in all aspects of church leadership and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as General Baptists affirm that God sovereignly granted to women their intrinsic worth, gifting, and dignity for the purpose of God's own mission and glory, and that we express our gratitude to the countless women who serve among us as pastors, ministers, missionaries, chaplains, writers, teachers, mentors, and leaders, both volunteer or professional, and that we celebrate their absolutely vital and too often unrecognized contributions to the expansion of God's kingdom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as General Baptists see and honor the works that women today are doing in churches, communities, workplaces, home, and on the global mission field to further the kingdom of God, and most importantly, we affirm that the God who sees will reward for eternity the beautiful works women do by His grace, in His name, and for His glory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage General Baptists pastors to equip women in their congregations "for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we exhort all General Baptists to work together to commission, train, support and elevate women to lead in all aspects of church ministry and to go and make disciples while serving courageously, giving sacrificially, and praying continuously, in order to effectively impart the faith to the next generation; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to cultivating an environment within the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina where women are fully respected, valued, and mobilized as equal co-laborers for the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission and the glory of the Triune God.