

Report to the Hayes Barton Congregation

7/21/2024

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Congregation:

The By-laws of this Church require that the Denominational Relations Committee monitor developments within the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist State Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; to brief the church on these developments; and to make recommendations for Church action as appropriate.

As Chair of the Denominational Relations Committee, I am here to brief the Church on developments within the Southern Baptist Convention and to make a recommendation by the Committee for Church action.

The Committee is currently considering developments within the Baptist State Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and will be briefing the Church on those developments in the future.

The Committee has been following developments within the Southern Baptist Convention since July of 2023 following the disfellowshipping of Baptist churches by the Convention because those churches had women serving as ministers. The Committee has reported to the Church on this Development and has exchanged communications with the Executive Committee of the Convention confirming Hayes Barton's long history of women serving as ministers and as deacons and questioning the authority and wisdom of disfellowshipping churches based on women serving in leadership positions. These communications are available on the Church's web site.

In early 2024, the Executive Committee disfellowshipped First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia, because a woman is serving as an associate pastor. Further, at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June, 61% of the messengers voted to amend the Constitution of the Convention to mandate that churches with women in leadership positions as ministers and deacons would not be eligible to be part of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Amendment did not pass, as a 2/3 vote was required.

Following these developments, the Denominational Relations Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Church that Hayes Barton withdraw from the SBC based on the position of the SBC which is demeaning to women and its disfellowshipping of churches which have women leaders as that contravenes the autonomy of each church to choose its leadership.

The Committee informed the Diaconate of its intention to recommend withdrawal. By a vote of 31 to 4, the Diaconate supported the recommendation.

The proposed resolution of disaffiliation will appear on the Church's website tomorrow. A copy will be mailed to each church member. There will be a number of talking sessions in DRC members and Church pastoral staff will be available to answer questions about this resolution as well as the on-going monitoring of developments within the Baptist State Convention and the Baptist Cooperative Fellowship. The Church will vote on the Resolution in October. A 2/3 vote is required for confirmation.

Mr. Chairman, the Denominational Relations Committee moves that the Church adopt the following resolution:

READ RESOLUTION

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

Sincerely,

E.D. Gaskins, Jr., Chair
Denominational Relations Committee

EDGjr/mek

Resolution of Disaffiliation from
The Southern Baptist Convention

WHEREAS, Hayes Barton Baptist Church (“HBBC”) has dual affiliation with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and, from HBBC’s inception in 1926, with the Southern Baptist Convention (“SBC”); and

WHEREAS, HBBC has expressed in writing to the Executive Committee of the SBC that HBBC recognizes women, equally with men, are called by God to leadership positions in the church and are equally qualified as men to discharge the responsibilities of those positions; and

WHEREAS, HBBC has for more than forty years called women to serve HBBC as ministers and as deacons; and

WHEREAS, HBBC has women currently serving as our Executive Pastor and Associate Pastor of Children and Families and Communication and as deacons; and

WHEREAS, HBBC has expressed in writing to the Executive Committee of the SBC that HBBC does not recognize the authority or wisdom of the SBC in disfellowshipping churches because they have women in pastoral leadership as that violates the basic Baptist principle of autonomous church authority; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 and again in 2024, the SBC has continued to disfellowship churches that choose women to serve in pastoral roles; and

WHEREAS, sixty-one percent of the messengers of the 2024 SBC voted in favor of a constitutional amendment which would have required the disassociation of churches which call women as ministers or deacons; and

WHEREAS, HBBC as an autonomous Baptist Church has no desire to change its position on calling women to serve in leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, HBBC perceives the position of the SBC to be demeaning of women and contravenes the autonomy of Baptist churches to choose their leadership; and

WHEREAS, HBBC does not want continued fellowship with the SBC to incorrectly convey that HBBC is supportive of those positions;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the position of the SBC on women, and on the effort of the SBC to require autonomous Baptist churches to accept the position of the SBC on women or be disfellowshipped; and based on the actual practice of the SBC selectively disfellowshipping autonomous Baptist churches on that basis;

HBBC does hereby disaffiliate with and withdraw from the SBC, by vote of the congregation, this the ____ day of _____, 2024.

By: _____
Chair of the Diaconate

By: _____
Senior Pastor