

COMMITTEE ON BAPTIST INTEGRITY

Baptist General Convention of Texas 333 North Washington Dallas, Texas 75246

March 15, 2000

Dear Texas Baptist:

“Trust the Lord and tell the people” has long been a guiding principle in Baptist life. Baptists believe that when God’s people are given honest answers and provided accurate information, they will make responsible decisions under the Lord’s leadership.

Unfortunately, some groups and individuals have circulated false information that distorts the truth about the character and convictions of Baptist General Convention of Texas leaders. Last year, the BGCT Executive Board approved the appointment of a 13-member Committee on Baptist Integrity to examine the charges leveled against the BGCT and its leadership and to respond to those accusations. After extensive study, the committee concluded, “BGCT leaders and the convention itself have been unjustly maligned.” The committee urged the critics to stop making unfounded charges and called on all responsible Texas Baptists to refute the accusations.

The material has continued to be circulated in Texas Baptist churches. In fact, some churches have used false accusations leveled in documents produced by the Texas Baptist Laymen’s Association and the Missouri Baptist Laymen’s Association to justify changing their relationship to the BGCT!

Having conducted its own independent analysis of the documents produced by these two groups and others, the *Baptist Standard* produced an outstanding series of extensively researched articles, published in the February 23 issue. The Committee on Baptist Integrity appreciates the evenhanded and fair manner in which the *Standard* dealt with the issues. Recognizing the value of this kind of objective analysis, the committee chose to reprint these articles and make them available to additional readers.

We would encourage you not only to read these articles, but also to become familiar with the issues raised in them. We are confident that any thinking Baptist who does so will make the right decisions about what is truth and act upon them.

Additional information about the BGCT, including fact sheets on various convention actions taken in recent years, is available on the Internet at:

www.bgct.org/communications/fyihome.htm.

We still believe in trusting the Lord and telling the people. We also believe in telling the people the truth.

Sincerely,

John Wilkerson, Chairman
Committee on Baptist Integrity
BGCT Executive Board

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Wilkerson, Chair, P.O. Box 2525, Lubbock, Texas 79408; Howard Batson, Amarillo; Danny Curry, Arlington; Doug Dillard, Garland; Toby Druin, Duncanville; Robert Jenkins, Plano; Dan Malone, El Paso; Bob Newell, Houston; Carol Parker, Sonora; Lorenzo Peña, El Paso; Barry Peterson, Amarillo; Brad Russell, Gonzales; John Cash (Jack) Smith, Orange

Ex officio: Rudy Sanchez, Chair Executive Board; Dick Maples, BGCT Staff Liaison; Charles Wade, Executive Director