

**Motion # 2:** Be it resolved that in recognition of our mutual interdependence, the churches of the CBWC establish membership practices and criteria in alignment with Assembly approved resolutions and statements- such resolutions and statements being in furtherance of the mission, vision, and purpose of the CBWC as outlined in our Identity Statement.

### **Dialogue on Motion 2: The Impact of Assembly Resolutions**

Membership into a local church is discerned by that congregation and Baptist polity provides a framework for the regenerate believer. But who discerns local church membership into an association of churches? The Associate member churches do, also guided by Baptist polity. Every second year, member churches of the CBWC send delegates to an in-person gathering to represent their church and give voice to the identity and direction of the Assembly which elected leadership endeavor to fulfill. [During the alternating years where we do not have in-person meetings, we meet virtually to approve the annual budget and welcome new churches into the Assembly].

Out of our Assembly of churches, resolutions arise that address current social issues. Over our 100+ year history, only 7 resolutions have been made. They include:

- 1959: the local church's right to ordain women to gospel ministry
- 1987: non-proliferation of nuclear arms
- 1988: The life, liberty, and security of the unborn as a person
- 2003, 2011, 2015 – definition of marriage, sexual behavior in the confines of marriage and clergy obligations around officiating marriages.
- 2017: UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People

1. What does it mean for your church to be a member church of the CBWC?
2. How do Assembly Resolutions affect your church? Is their impact timeless or for a season?
3. Is it reasonable to expect Assembly Resolutions to be adopted on at the local church level?
4. Ought churches who did not vote for those resolutions still be held to the resolutions?
5. In Baptist polity, how do we understand soul liberty, freedom of conscience, and the autonomy of the local church in the context of associational cooperation for the greater mission?
6. In what ways is our witness as a family of churches increased because of our shared work? What is our greater witness as a family of churches because of our working alliance?
7. How does non-compliance affect our broader witness?
8. How has your church's affinity with other CBWC churches strengthened your local ministry?
9. How has your church offered encouragement to other CBWC churches and their pastors?