

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg Byman, Chair

The Christian Life Committee (CLC) assists the SCBI in addressing ethical, moral and governmental concerns. Indiana Baptists must be “as shrewd as serpents and as harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16) as we face the growing challenge of following Christ among many who are uninterested, and sometimes intolerant, to this way of life.

Last year, we asked you to encourage the Indiana legislature to amend our constitution to uphold the Biblical definition of marriage. Their failure to affirm a satisfactory amendment during two separately elected legislatures is disappointing. We now must await another vote on the amended proposal before Hoosiers can even vote on it statewide. Current court cases nationwide indicate the definition of marriage is far from settled legally. Every local church and pastor must balance the tasks of evangelizing the lost while continually upholding the truth of God’s Word, even as negative popular opinion and possible lawsuits loom ahead.

We must remain diligent to uphold the sanctity of life. The committee will continue to inform and assist our churches in their efforts to promote pro-life in their communities, state and nation. Thankfully, an abortion doctor was successfully halted from performing abortions in Fort Wayne for failing to report in a timely manner that he performed an abortion on a minor. Failing to report such incidents can unlawfully shield adult males from being prosecuted. Please support local ministries that provide Christian counseling and practical help for women who face unplanned pregnancies. Pray for all the women, including many attending our churches, who have had abortions and need to embrace the love and forgiveness of God.

We hope your CLC, along with resources from the Ethic and Religious Liberties Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (erlc.org), will effectively help Indiana Baptists form a Christ-like and Biblical worldview to tackle these and other pressing issues. May God use us all to glorify Christ as we put our faith into practice until He comes again.