

**MISSISSIPPI FAITH UNITED AGAINST TOBACCO RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and are endowed with dignity and inestimable value; and

WHEREAS, Every year, 4,900 Mississippians die horrible but preventable deaths caused by tobacco addiction, and thousands more suffer from tobacco-caused disability and disease;

WHEREAS, Every year 9,300 Mississippi children become addicted to tobacco; 81,600 children alive today will die early from smoking-related diseases;

WHEREAS: Exposure to secondhand smoke in workplaces and homes annually kills and harms thousands of Mississippians;

WHEREAS, Mississippi's health care expenditures caused by tobacco use total over \$622 million each year, including more than \$243 million in annual tobacco-caused expenditures by the State Medicaid program;

WHEREAS, Mississippi receives more than \$100 million per year as part of the national settlement with the tobacco companies, part of which should be used for tobacco prevention and cessation;

WHEREAS, The tobacco industry spends \$200 million annually in the State of Mississippi to entice Mississippians to use its products; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the American Heart Association, The American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society, the Campaign For Tobacco Free Kids and other experts have established that increasing taxes on tobacco, prohibiting smoking in public workplaces, including restaurants and bars, and fully funding state tobacco prevention programs, substantially decrease smoking and other tobacco use, particularly among children, thereby reducing tobacco-caused harms and costs, be it therefore:

RESOLVED: That the undersigned Mississippi faith organization supports efforts to prevent and reduce smoking and other tobacco use in Mississippi particularly among children and teens; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage our places of worship to educate and inform our youth as to the dangers of tobacco use; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage our state government to continue funding of programs designed for prevention and cessation of tobacco use at no less than the minimum level recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to work to create a smoke free environment in all public places, including restaurants and bars; and be it finally

Resolved, That we commit ourselves to seek ways to help alleviate this destructive problem through personal and community efforts and by encouraging our elected officials to take aggressive actions in reducing smoking in our state.

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, Fax, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Mississippi Faith United Against Tobacco at The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi  
350 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Suite 499, Jackson, MS, 39213; or FAX: 601-362-4720  
Call 1-800-PHM-5437 or 601-362-0740 for more information.