

Bethel University

Resolution in support of Bethel College and Seminary – Adopted 2000

From the Committed Pastors to the 2000 Annual Meeting (introduced by Ron Saar) Passed 423 “For” / 363 “Against” on 6/28/2000.

Be it resolved that the statement on the doctrine of God in the 1951 Affirmation of Faith is sufficiently stated; and, in regard to the subject of open theism, as delegates of the Baptist General Conference (who are also the delegates of Bethel College and Seminary) * we affirm the Position paper unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees of Bethel College and Seminary on June 24, 2000.

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE BETHEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES Whereas, as the Bethel Board of Trustees:

We affirm our bylaw-mandated responsibility..."for maintaining the integrity of both instruction and spiritual quality within the College and Seminary, such that traditional, biblical and historic baptistic principles and doctrine observed by the churches affiliated with Bethel Corporation are not compromised," and

We acknowledge the debate regarding Open Theism is of critical importance in seeking truth and unity within our Conference, and have given careful consideration to the concerns that have been raised; and

We affirm the unanimous vote of the Committee for Theological Clarification and Assessment occurring on May 13, 1998, that Dr. Boyd's views did not warrant his termination as a member of the Bethel College faculty and by inference that his views fall within the accepted bounds of the evangelical spectrum; and

Therefore, as the Bethel Board of Trustees:

We stress the importance of continuing the process of listening to the doctrinal convictions of the members of constituent churches of the BGC and encourage the pursuit of rigorous biblicentric scholarship in the Open Theism debate as well as other subsequent controversial issues that may arise.

We insist that any faculty member who may hold the Open View of God must in good faith refer to this view as marginal to the mainstream thought of the BGC whenever this view is presented in formal or informal teaching contexts.

Further, when we examine this view in the classrooms of our school, it must be done alongside presentation of the classical Calvinistic, Arminian, and other evangelical viewpoints, inviting fairness in teaching even if it requires guest presenters for credible representations of all views. We affirm the continued use, as the textbook, a volume that primarily represents the classical view.



Further, we reaffirm Dr. Greg Boyd as a valued colleague within the Bethel Christian liberal arts community who enthusiastically embraces the BGC Affirmation of Faith, serves as a pastor in good standing in a BGC church and reflects an uncompromising commitment to bibliocentric and christocentric theology.

We invite you, our partners in the Baptist General Conference, to join us in diligent and ongoing efforts to understand faithfully God's mystery as revealed in Scripture. All praise be to Him!

Adopted unanimously without abstention on June 24, 2000*

*Dr. Dwight Perry withdrew his affirmative vote on June 27, 2000.