

BAPTISTS

FROM PAGE B7

for “for renewed moral clarity in public discourse regarding the crisis of declining fertility and for policies that support the bearing and raising of children within intact, married families.”

It laments that modern culture is “pursuing willful childlessness which contributes to a declining fertility rate,” echoing a growing subject of discourse on the religious and political right.

The pornography resolution, which had no debate, calls such material destructive, addictive and exploitive

and says governments have the power to ban it.

The sports betting resolution draws on Southern Baptists’ historic opposition to gambling. It called sports betting “harmful and predatory.” One pastor urged an amendment to distinguish between low-stakes, recreational gambling and predatory, addictive gambling activities. But his proposed amendment failed.

Andrew Walker, chair of the Committee on Resolutions, said at a news conference that the marriage resolution shows that Southern Baptists aren’t going along with the widespread social acceptance of same-sex marriage.

But Walker, a professor at

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, acknowledged that a realistic rollback strategy would require incremental steps, such as seeking to overturn Obergefell.

“I’m clear-eyed about the difficulties and the headwinds in this resolution,” he said.

**WHISTLEBLOWER’S DEATH CASTS PALL ON DALLAS MEETING**

The two-day annual meeting began Tuesday morning with praise sessions and optimistic reports about growing numbers of baptisms. But casting a pall over the gathering is the recent death of one of the most high-profile whistleblowers in the Southern Baptists’

scandal of sexual abuse.

Jennifer Lyell, a onetime denominational publishing executive who went public in 2019 with allegations that she had been sexually abused by a seminary professor while a student, died Saturday at 47. She “suffered catastrophic strokes,” a friend and fellow advocate, Rachael Denhollander, posted Sunday on X.

Friends reported that the backlash Lyell received after going public with her report took a devastating toll on her.

Several abuse survivors and advocates for reform, who previously had a prominent presence in recent SBC meetings, are skipping this year’s gathering, citing lack of prog-

ress by the convention.

Two people sought to fill that void, standing vigil outside of the meeting at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas as attendees walked by. The pair held up signs with photos of Lyell and of Gareld Duane Rollins, who died earlier this spring and who was among those who accused longtime SBC power broker Paul Pressler of sexual abuse.

“It’s not a healthy thing for them (survivors) to be here,” said Johnna Harris, host of a podcast on abuse in evangelical ministries. “I felt like it was important for someone to show up. I want people to know there are people who care.”

# CLASSIFIEDS

**Contact:**  
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5/29/2025 DEBBIE CLAPP, 41 CHAMPIONSHIP LANE BENTON KY 42025 IS APPOINTED EXECUTRIX FOR THE ESTATE OF CONNIE EAST, 92 TARA COURT BENTON KY 42025. ATTORNEY GEORGE CARTER, PO BOX 259 BENTON KY 42025.

5/29/2025 NANCY WOOSLEY, 1103 HICKORY SWITCH ROAD LAGRANGE KY 40031 IS APPOINTED ADMINISTRATRIX FOR THE ESTATE OF DANIEL WOOSLEY, 3185 WADESBORO ROAD S BENTON KY 42025.

6/2/2025 SANDRA SMITH, 1643 LITTLE CYPRESS ROAD CALVERT CITY KY 42029 IS APPOINTED EXECUTRIX FOR THE ESTATE OF ROBERT PRIESTLY SCOTT, 971 BIRCH STREET BENTON KY 42025. ATTORNEY TOM BLANKENSHIP, PO BOX 571 BENTON KY 42025.

THE FOLLOWING FIDUCIARY ESTATES HAVE FILED FINAL SETTLEMENTS. THE SETTLEMENTS MAY BE REVIEWED IN THE CLERKS OFFICE. ANY PERSONS DESIRING TO FILE EXCEPTIONS TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT MUST DO SO WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES.

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