



PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

Resolution on Protecting the Right to Organize

WHEREAS, all persons are created in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:27) which endows them with dignity and requires that they be treated with respect in the workplace; and based on our reading of Holy Scripture, the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the human and moral right of working people to form unions; and

WHEREAS, the Progressive National Baptist Convention has a long history and tradition of encouraging and actively supporting working people who are organizing unions to ensure their dignity, negotiate a fair return on their work, hold employers accountable, and address discrimination and harassment in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the wage and wealth gap between the rich and poor has reached a 50-year high, and research shows that when the percentage of unions declined, income disparity increased dramatically; and the rise in economic inequality and poverty has far-ranging repercussions on issues, including affordable housing, public safety, public health, environmental protection, quality education, infrastructure and more; and

WHEREAS, it is in our society's best interest to alleviate poverty by providing good, safe, and secure employment to all, and to hold corporations and employers accountable for their actions and conduct; and

WHEREAS, the balance of power has shifted completely to corporations, and the labor laws designed to empower and protect working people have been intentionally weakened over the last 80 years; and

WHEREAS, these outdated labor laws are broken and have been exploited by employers to coerce, intimidate, and punish working people for exercising their human right to form unions, to break the law with impunity, to avoid accountability, and to erode the democratic rights of working people; and

*In honor of our beloved 21st
President Dr. Timothy
Stewart*

REV. DAVID R. PEOPLES
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DR. KEITH W. BYRD, SR.
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WHEREAS, our labor laws no longer serve as an effective means for protecting and empowering working people, and the unbridled power of corporations has prevented more working people from joining together in unions; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly supports the right of working people to organize unions for the purpose of collective bargaining, and social and economic justice, and to engage in collective action to achieve these goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention will advocate for and support federal legislation to protect the right to organize, expand collective bargaining rights, and balance the power between corporations and working people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act and calls on its local congregations and State Conventions to support this significant worker empowerment legislation by contacting their members of Congress and taking other actions to obtain passage of this legislation.



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