



PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.

RESOLUTION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

WHEREAS religious freedom is a gift granted to all of us by God, who gives us a choice on whom and how we serve, we know that faith has to be voluntary to be vital.

WHEREAS religious freedom is not possible without personal freedom, the work of advancing justice is tied to our commitment to protecting religious freedom for everyone. We are urged on by the words of Fannie Lou Hamer, who said, “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free.” We stay true to the prophetic words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who said, “The church ... is not to be the master or the servant of the state, but the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state - never its tool.”

WHEREAS white Christian nationalism is not Christian. We see a serious threat to religious freedom in this political ideology and cultural framework that seeks to merge Christian and American identities which harms both our Christian witness and our system of government. White Christian nationalism mangles and distorts our faith in an effort to impose an authoritarian theocracy on others.

WHEREAS white Christian nationalism embraces violence and misuses the Bible to inspire acts of violence, including gun violence, political violence, terrorism, graffiti and other forms of vandalism, threats and other acts of intimidation, and violent rhetoric. White Christian nationalism has inspired killers in hate crimes at houses of worship and community spaces, including at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC; the TOPS Supermarket in Buffalo, NY; and the Walmart in El Paso, TX, among other places.

WHEREAS white Christian nationalism often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation, it creates and perpetuates a sense of cultural belonging that is limited to certain people associated with the founding of the United States, namely native-born white Protestant Christian men.

WE RESOLVE TO continue to support the freedom for all people to choose their religion or choose not to be religious, just as God granted us that right.

WE RESOLVE TO remain steadfast in our efforts to speak truth to power, calling out white Christian nationalism as a threat to our faith and to our nation. We reject all attempts to limit what it means to be a Christian by anyone who suggests that “real” Americans and “real” Christians hold a particular set of fundamentalist religious beliefs.

WE RESOLVE TO be Christians against Christian nationalism, working with BJC (Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty), Baptist World Alliance, and other partners to promote religious freedom for all and a fuller understanding of the love of Jesus that is available to everyone, regardless of political affiliation. God is not a Republican. God is not a Democrat. God is also not an American. God is love.

Presented during the PNBC 2024 annual session

Reverend Dr. David R. Peoples, President
Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III & Dr. Willie D. Francois III
Co-Chairs, Social Justice Commission