



General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

THE BAPTIST HEADQUARTERS

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Our Stand Against Injustice

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Responds to Murder of George Floyd

As cries for justice and equality echo through the streets in major cities nationwide, the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina Inc., is taking an unequivocal stance against racial oppression and injustice.

In our 153 years as an organization, we've remained true to our foundational principles. That is, we support the Christian witness, Christian education and benevolence. That is why we cannot and will not be silent or complicit regarding the rampant racial injustice that has reverberated across America for centuries.

We've seen that injustice take several shapes. We saw it with the beginning of forced deportation of enslaved Africans to America in 1619, more than 100 years before the United States was chartered as a nation. We saw it with the coalescing of the Ku Klux Klan and the emergence of lynching during Reconstruction. We saw it with the advent of Jim Crow-era segregation that kept black Americans oppressed and pushed to the margins of society. We saw it with the so-called War on Drugs, which disproportionately targeted black and brown communities. We saw it with the proliferation of mass incarceration and sentencing disparities within the criminal justice system.

And we see it still today: in the gruesome death of George Floyd; in the weaponizing of privilege by Amy Cooper; and in the chasmic healthcare disparities that have made the pandemic even deadlier for minorities.

Enough is enough.

We believe that God is concerned and vocal about social justice. Throughout Scripture, He responded to the cries of the weary and vulnerable. Through the mouths of His prophets, He chastised and indicted those who mistreated the poor and needy and profited off their hardship. As the man Jesus, He ministered to the downtrodden, endorsed the meek and gave voice to the disenfranchised.

We shall follow His example. Our Christian witness compels us to rail against injustice with our voices, our actions and our financial stewardship. We are vehemently opposed to the deaths of unarmed black people at the hands of law enforcement. These wrongs demand change and attention, as well as acknowledgment. The cross does not allow us to sit still and not respond.

We are challenging ourselves, our church leaders, our congregants and even our observers to understand, believe and profess that black lives do matter; that injustice is wrong; and that we, as the Church, will stand on the frontlines of fighting for change and setting things right.

In Service To Christ,

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