



The General Baptist Convention of New Jersey

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Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders, *President*

GBCNJ Presidential Response to Buffalo Shooting ~ May 2022

The General State Baptist Convention of New Jersey joins the torrent of voices that are once again calling out the ongoing stream of evil in our country that is white supremacy and the white ideology that festers, propagates, and results in the latest in a long list of racially motivated murders in Buffalo. This most recent heinous incident of white terrorism was not only the result of another young white male whose dangerous mental health issues were seemingly ignored due to his skin color but also of the racial hatred that is bred and formed in the caldron of the artificial construct of American whiteness.

As we mourn the horrendously senseless loss of life of those Buffalo residents going about their normal weekend routine, we reaffirm their humanity and dignity as well as that of black and brown peoples and our indigenous brothers and sisters everywhere who are consistently dehumanized and therefore stigmatized to be subject to the continuation of this nation's unspeakable horrors. We pray that God would provide peace of mind to the families and survivors who were terrorized and traumatized and who are now living in the aftermath of this another all too commonplace tragedy in a land that refuses to acknowledge its wicked and immoral past and that instead of addressing the need to make amends to the descendants of those who were expressly exploited for financial gain would choose to defend white privilege in order to protect the mythos of white superiority.

More than our moral support, let us ready ourselves to listen and respond to the call to action from our God in this moment. In the face of this persistent inequity, inequality, and injustice, we must not be silent. We echo the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, "One who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as one who helps perpetuate it. One who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it." Let's be clear, racism and white supremacy are truly Euro American-perpetuated evils that have continued for too long and we cannot ignore the fact that one of the complicit reinforcements comes from those who would hopelessly sit idly by and those who have continued to give over to the enslavement mentality. The General State Baptist Convention of New Jersey hereby resolves to protest and fight vigorously against these tribulations and not only to expose but eradicate them. Now is the time for us that we must look to that greatest social justice warrior that we call JESUS THE CHRIST and follow His example to stand firm and fight courageously against white racism that endorses and encourages the bias, prejudice, discrimination, and unfairness that left unchecked will leave us all living fearfully in expectation of the next bloodbath.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders
President, General Baptist Convention of New Jersey

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