



The Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention vehemently denounces the language of bigotry and racism reportedly used by President Donald Trump. We find his description of nations (Haiti, El Salvador, and African countries), that are primarily non white, totally deplorable. Such language (which will not be repeated here) that dehumanizes one group of people over another must be rejected and denounced.

As servants of Jesus the Christ, we the Pastors, Preachers, Associate Ministers, and Lay Leaders of our convention, understand that the Bible requires us not only to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to promote peace and love, but to recognize that we are called to prophetically reject language that would unjustly promote a false and disgusting characterization of human beings created in God's image.

We sincerely believe that President Trump's incendiary and irresponsible words continue to perpetuate racial division in our country. Remember, Jesus said, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Not only is President Trump the President of the United States of America, he is the leader of the free world. Yet his language does not promote the image of liberty and justice for all. Instead, his words create a climate in which racism and hatred can and will flourish.

The actions demonstrated by the President of our country cannot be excused or embraced. We are calling for unity, civility, and love for one another. As a country, we cannot allow the language of racism and bigotry to divide and separate us. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once eloquently stated, "we must learn to live together as brothers [and sisters], or we will perish together as fools." Let us pray for this nation and a growth of the prophetic witness of the Churches of Jesus Christ in this New Year. God bless, the United States of America.

Shalom,

Rev. Dr. Bruce N. Alick, President

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention (PBSC)

Rev. Dr. Wayne M. Weathers, Chair

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