

PROCLAMATION

A CORPORATE CLERGY CALL TO DAY OF PRAYER & APPRECIATION FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the local law enforcement plays a valuable role in our society, with brave men and women keeping vigilant watch at all hours risking their lives (1) on behalf of the safety of others; often with their acts of heroism going unnoticed; and.....

WHEREAS, recently elected leaders have demonstrated a hostility toward local law enforcement, with the U.S. House passing a bill to remove qualified immunity for police officers, (2) and with large metropolitan cities defunding their police departments;(3) and.....

WHEREAS, reports indicate local police departments are seeing declining staffing due to retirements and resignations, local police departments are seeing dropping numbers of applicants for job openings, and a local police academy is graduating less students majoring in Criminal Justice; and.....

WHEREAS, our nation is founded on Judeo-Christian values, as exemplified by Ohio clergymen representing one-hundred-fifty congregations on January 15, 2019, when addressing the growing problems of Bible illiteracy and political correctness, declaring 2019 as “The Year of the Bible;” (4) and.....

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers confirmed the Bible is the leading source of morality in Western Civilization (5) by promoting law and order and forbidding murder, adultery, the stealing and coveting of personal property; and.....

WHEREAS, leading clergymen have historically supported law enforcement, (6-10) including efforts to stop human trafficking, with fourteen local clergy on August 29, 2016 assisting local law enforcement in uncovering a clandestine human trafficking network at a commercial business (11) and with clergy publicly supporting numerous rescue operations involving in human trafficking (12-13); and.....

WHEREAS, leading clergymen from over one-hundred local congregations on September 21st, 2019 held a press conference recognizing “Thank a Police Officer Day” coordinating with several local restaurants to provide free meals to law enforcement in uniform (14); and.....

WHEREAS, North Central Ohio has a tradition of calling upon Almighty GOD in times of adversity, with eighty-three clergymen on June 24th 2009, calling for a day of prayer and fasting when the area’s largest employer announced closure of its facilities, (15) and with one hundred twenty clergymen on March 25, 2020 calling for a day of prayer and fasting at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (16); and.....

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as leading clergymen from (89) eighty-nine congregations across Richland County, Ohio, we regret the negativity and

malice toward those police officers who bravely serve and protect our families. We formally call citizens, especially Christians, to join millions across the nation to recognize the “Day of Prayer and Appreciation for Local Law Enforcement” on Sunday, June 13th, 2021 by standing in solidarity through prayer, doing acts of charity toward those wearing the badge, publicly advocating on behalf of our local law enforcement, and promoting a career in this noble profession.

The following listed clergy are co-signors representing (89) eighty-nine congregations throughout Richland County, Ohio.....

Pastor Chad Hayes, Mansfield Caeserea Baptist	Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community
Pastor Mike Mack, Trinity United Methodist	Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Irresistible Church
Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community	Pastor Brad Gentile, Shelby First Baptist
Pastor Jason Price, Victory Baptist Church	Pastor Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ Church	Pastor Mathew Pond, First Freewill Baptist
Pastor Denny Finnegan, First Evangelical Presbyterian	Pastor Steve Baldrige, Rome Community
Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Temple Baptist	Pastor El Akuchie, Godsfield House Prayer
Rabbi William Hallbrook, Sar Shalom Center	Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal
Elder Moe Hill, Grace Evangelical Free Church	Pastor Dink Porter, First Church of Open Bible
Pastor Earl Eiklor, Cornerstone Freewill Baptist	Pastor Dan Baer, Mansfield Gospel Assembly
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center	Pastor James Spencer, Peoples’ Baptist
Pastor Robert O’Brian, Apostolic Faith Assembly	Pastor Aaron Rose, Madison Fusion Church
Pastor Ron Smals, Woodville Grace Brethren	Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Church of GOD
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist	Pastor Terry Garrett, Lexington Fusion Church
Pastor Tim George, Abundant Grace Fellowship	Pastor Rich Rader, Journey Harbor Fellowship
Pastor John Campos, Bowman St. Church of GOD	Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship
Pastor Paul Lintern, Oakland Lutheran Church	Pastor Paul Lintern, Southside Christian
Pastor Christopher Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist	Pastor Dan Zediker, Mansfield Mission Point
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill Baptist	Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare Gospel
Pastor Troy Wooten, Christian Life Center	Pastor Art Kennard, Shelby Maranatha Christian
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community Church	Pastor Steve Schag, Shelby Calvary Baptist
Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren	Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor Mark Bailey, Mansfield Freewill Baptist	Pastor Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly
Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges Liberty Baptist	Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside First Church GOD
Pastor Clyde Kerby, Ministries of Hope & Healing	Pastor David Parsons, Zion’s Refuge Baptist
Pastor Bryan Schatzinger, Mansfield Calvary Chapel	Pastor Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist
Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church Brethren	Pastor Matt Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance
Pastor Steve Burkhalter, Ontario Potter’s House	Pastor Ted Howard, Apostolic Assembly
Pastor Tim Davis, Newville Baptist Church	Pastor Joe Smith, Westside Baptist Church
Pastor David Guild, Mansfield Foursquare Gospel	Pastor James Hill, Mansfield Paradise Church
Pastor Clint Zeigler Sovereign Christ Church	Pastor Scott Maglott, Journey Church Nazarene
Pastor Anthony Cooper, Shelby Life Church	Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesley Evangelical
Pastor Rick Wiseman, Promised Land Fellowship	Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community
Pastor Ferlie Yates, Hanna Rd. Church GOD	Pastor Mike Wilson, Lincoln Heights Baptist
Elder James DeWeese, Providence Church	Pastor David Ferrell, Mansfield Holiness Chapel
Pastor Matthew O’Harra, Bellville First Baptist	Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD
Pastor Mark Meyer, Lexington Grace Point Sanctuary	Pastor Bruce Copley, Mansfield Faith Chapel
Elder Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COGIC	Pastor Randy Raynes, Fellowship Baptist
Pastor Paul Matthewson, Maranatha Bible Baptist	Pastor Stephen Conn, Bethel Freewill Baptist
Pastor Rich Hurles, Plymouth LifePoint Church	Pastor Dave Rentzel, Ontario Abundant Life
Pastor Paul Staton, Bellville Honeycreek Baptist	Pastor Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Aga[e Ministries

Pastor Joseph Shannon, Living Hope Church
Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain COGIC
Pastor Chad Berry, Lexington New Liberty Baptist
Pastor Mark Cobb, Mansfield Providence Baptist

Pastor Jonas Clawson, Southwood Hills Church
Bishop Eli Miller, Amish Perry District 2
Bishop Andy Keim, Amish Perry District 1

REFERENCES

- (1) Excluding deaths from COVID-19 and 9/11 related illnesses, 114 police officers died in the line of duty during 2020 according to Officer Down Memorial Page <http://www.odmp.org/search/year/2020>
- (2) "S.492 - Ending Qualified Immunity Act, 117th Congress," <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/492>
- (3) "List of Cities Defunding the Police | Surge in Crime," https://www.secureamericanow.org/cities_defunding_police
- (4) "150 Clergy declare 2019 as "Year of the Bible" in North Central Ohio (VIDEO)," by Frontlines Ohio, January 16, 2019, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2019/01/16/150-clergy-declare-2019-as-year-of-the-bible/>
- (5) "Six quotes by the Founding Fathers about the Bible," American Bible Society News, July 4, 2017, <https://news.americanbible.org/blog/entry/corporate-blog/6-quotes-about-the-bible-from-the-founding-fathers>
- (6) "Area clergy vocal of their support for Mansfield police & fire safety services levy," Frontlines Ohio, May 4, 2019 <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2019/05/04/area-clergy-vocal-of-their-support-for-mansfield-police-fire-safety-services-levy/>
- (7) "Congregation supports schools and police for Hannukah," Frontlines Ohio , December 12, 2018, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2018/12/12/menorah-lighting-lights-up-ontario-congregation-supports-schools-and-police-for-hanukah/>
- (8) "Mansfield Baptist Temple holds service honoring law enforcement (Photo Gallery)," Frontlines Ohio, September 8, 2019, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2019/09/08/mansfield-baptist-temple-holds-service-honoring-law-enforcement-and-government-officials/>
- (9) "City officials meet with pastors in upper room and discuss declining crime," Frontlines Ohio, January 28, 2020, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2020/01/28/city-officials-meet-with-pastors-in-upper-room-and-discuss-declining-crime/>
- (10) "Community leaders oppose removing protections for police officers," Frontlines Ohio, April 19, 2021, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2021/04/19/community-leaders-oppose-removing-protections-for-police-officers/>
- (11) "Clergy tip assists police in closing clandestine brothel," Frontlines Ohio, March 8, 2017 <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2017/03/08/clergy-tip-assists-police-in-closing-clandestine-brothel/>
- (12) "Richland County clergy commend police in recent commercial sex raid (VIDEO), Frontlines Ohio, August 29, 2019, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2019/08/29/richland-county-clergy-commend-law-enforcement-in-recent-commercial-sex-raid-video/>
- (13) "Is the fear of GOD driving wheels of justice in Northern Ohio? (AUDIO)," News Staff, Breaking Christian News, September 16, 2020, https://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=31177
- (14) "Showing appreciation for those in blue," by Steve Jordahl, OneNewsNow, September 24, 2019 <https://onenewsnow.com/church/2019/09/24/showing-appreciation-for-those-in-blue>
- (15) "Pastors call for day of prayer in aftermath of General Motors plant closure," Frontlines Ohio, June 13, 2009, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2009/06/13/pastors-call-for-day-of-prayer-in-light-of-general-motors-plant-closure/>
- (16) "120 Clergymen call Ohio to prayer during COVID-19 pandemic (SLIDESHOW)(VIDEO)," Frontlines Ohio, March 25, 2020, <http://frontlinesohio.com/index.php/2020/03/25/120-clergymen-call-ohio-to-prayer-during-covid-19-pandemic-photo-galleryvideo/>