



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation

## **“CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”**

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

**THE PASTOR’S PEN** October 30, 2022

## **WHAT IS AT STAKE THIS VOTING CYCLE?**

The Conservatives who are willing to fracture and destroy democracy to remain in power know that they cannot force Black Christians to vote the way they want us to vote to accomplish their power grab goals. In fact, if they attempted to force us, we would definitely strongly resist. Therefore, they use a more indirect, subtle and manipulative strategy.

Their strategy is to get us to vote against our interests and vote for their interests. How do they do that? They do it by using what they know about us, against us. For example, let us take the first point of the two-point, Conservative platform of anti-abortion and anti-homosexuality – anti-abortion. They know that Black Christians generally support life from the beginning of life to death.

Note that I did not use the phrase ‘pro-life’ because that phrase is a political construct used to engender support for the Conservative political agenda and political candidates. The people who say they are pro-life are the same ones who support and advocate for the death penalty. They are the same ones who do not support the social programs that sustain life for children, youth, seniors and families. Do you see the contradiction?

Because we generally support life, when some hear the phrase ‘pro-life,’ they feel compelled to place their support behind the pro-life agenda and pro-life candidates. However, as a whole, our interests are not in a pro-life agenda. Our interests are in an agenda that supports life for everyone, across every circumstance and in every situation. That is why we support programs that feed children, create alternatives for youth, strengthen families, care for the elderly, rehabilitate the incarcerated, and the like. The narrow view of pro-life being expressed as anti-abortion is an agenda that promotes a Conservative political agenda and supports Conservative political interests.

Secondly, they know that Black Christians are generally spiritual people. Therefore, when they take their pro-life agenda and attach it to Christianity, some Black Christians are deceived into thinking and believing that God has ordained and supported the pro-life agenda. Once those thoughts and beliefs are anchored, they will willingly support the pro-life agenda and the Conservative political agenda believing that they are supporting God.

As they have successfully used what they know about us against us, and indirectly and subtly and manipulated us, many have walked away from and voted against their interests, and embraced and voted for Conservative political interests, thereby helping to promote a Conservative political agenda.

At this point, some may be asking, “What’s the problem? This is only about political agendas and candidates. How bad can it be? It is very bad because, as I said earlier, it is about power. It is about who has the power, who will get the power and who will keep the power. Understand that when we walk away from and vote against our interests, and embrace and vote for their interests, it is about more than anti-abortion and anti-homosexuality. It is about giving them the power to win the culture war.

What is a culture war? A culture war is a political struggle caused by conflict between sets of social beliefs and cultural values in a society. The objective of a culture war is the destruction and replacement of one set of social beliefs and cultural values for another. In fighting this war, each side struggles to gain control over the other by seizing power over cultural institutions of a society such as government, education, media, family, history, Economics (Business/Finance), etc. Whoever seizes the power over these cultural institutions will inevitably seize power over the lives of those who live in that society. Whoever wins the culture war will determine who has the power to compel others to do their will.

Just imagine for a moment what life will be like if those who are pursuing a Conservative political agenda have the power to determine who governs this country, the power to determine the curriculum taught in schools, the power to determine real news from fake news, the power to determine what families are and how families function, the power to determine what should be included and omitted in history, the power to determine how the economy should be run and who has access to run it.

Is this the agenda that we want to promote? Do we really believe that God has ordained and supported this agenda? Are we willing to walk away from and vote against our interests for this? Do not be deceived. They want our vote because they want to take our power. They want us to vote against our interests and support them in fulfilling their interests. Do not be deceived.

Following are the manifestations of some of the efforts that the Conservative political movement is using to seize power over these cultural institutions:

- ✓ **Government** – Voter suppression and voter disenfranchisement efforts targeted against Black and Brown people, urban areas and of people with less economic means.
- ✓ **Education** – Resistance to teaching a true and accurate accounting of history, and promoting a misleading definition of true and accurate history as Critical Race Theory (which has never been taught, is not being taught and will never be taught in our schools). This misleading definition has led to banning books previously available in school libraries.
- ✓ **Media** – Vilification of journalist, and media outlets, and labeling any information that they do not agree with as ‘Fake News.’
- ✓ **Family** – Negating the ‘Rights of’ (negating the individual rights of people relating to abortion, homosexuality, transgender, etc.) justified by what they consider the ‘Rightness In’ (supporting the negating of the individual rights of people relating to abortion, homosexuality, transgender, etc. because of their view that those lifestyle decisions are not right.)
- ✓ **History** – Support for rewriting history to remove, moderate and whitewash the vile, dehumanizing and brutal treatment of Black and Brown people in this country. Additionally, opposition to the removal of confederate monuments from public buildings and public spaces, and the removal of the confederate flag from state flags.
- ✓ **Economics (Finance/Business)** – Embracing the Great Replacement Theory (a conspiracy theory that says white people are purposely being replaced with Black and Brown people, immigrants, migrants, Muslims and refugees across the world)

# UPDATE ON OUR WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

1. **Physical Distancing** – We continue to maintain a moderate degree of physical distancing.
2. **Worship Attendance** – Worship Attendance will be open to those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Additionally, for the safety of everyone in attendance, those *who are unvaccinated are required to wear their masks at all times in the building.*
3. **Registration** – To ensure that we are able to maintain a moderate degree of physical distancing, everyone is strongly encouraged to register in advance. Please call the church office (414-873-1045) before 3:00 pm on Thursday.
4. **Mandatory Masks** – Everyone is required to wear a mask when entering the church and movement to their seat.
  - Once seated, those *who are vaccinated* may remove their mask if they desire.
  - Those *who are not vaccinated* are required to wear their mask at all times in the building

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

### CONTEXT

Due to systemic racism, racist policies, and racist societal structures, both Black women and Black men experience intimate partner violence at a disproportionately high rate. By intentionally denying Black people access to economic opportunities, the ability to build intergenerational wealth, healthcare, education,<sup>1</sup> and a sense of safety from governmental systems, racist policies increase the prevalence of risk factors for domestic violence.<sup>2</sup> These systems create numerous barriers for survivors seeking safety. Law enforcement officials often arrest Black survivors, and police, jurors, and judges are less likely to believe Black survivors than White survivors.<sup>3</sup> Racist systems put Black people at greater risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.

### STATISTICS

- 45.1% of Black women and 40.1% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.<sup>4</sup>
- 31.8% of Black women and 16.8% of Black men have experienced one or more of the following intimate partner violence-related impacts: being fearful, concerned for safety, any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, injury, need for medical care, housing services, victim advocate services, and/or legal services, missed at least 1 day of work or school, and contacting a crisis hotline.<sup>5</sup>
- 41.2% of Black women and 36.3% of Black men have experienced intimate partner physical violence in their lifetimes.<sup>6</sup>
- 53.8% of Black women and 56.1% of Black men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.<sup>7</sup>
- 8.8% of Black women have been the victims of intimate partner rape in their lifetimes.<sup>8</sup> • 17.4% of Black women and 14.8% of Black men have experienced intimate partner sexual violence (other than rape) in their lifetimes.<sup>9</sup>
- 9.5% of Black women have experienced intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.<sup>10</sup>

### HOMICIDE

- An estimated 51.3% of black adult female homicides are related to intimate partner violence.<sup>11</sup>
- Between 2003-2014, 57.7% of black adult female homicide victims were murdered with the use of a firearm.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2017, for female victim/male offender homicides, Black females had the highest rate at 2.55 per 100,000.<sup>13</sup>

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If you are in crisis, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or [www.TheHotline.org](http://www.TheHotline.org).

Please visit the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's website** at [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org) for more fact sheets, membership information, and valuable resources.

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- <sup>1</sup> Blesset, B. & Littleton, V. (2017). Examining the impact of institutional racism in Black residentially segregated communities. *Ralph Bunche Journal of Public Affairs*, 6(1).
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  - <sup>4</sup> Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVSStateReportBook.pdf>.
  - <sup>5</sup> Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Basile, K.C., Walters, M.L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M.T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization — national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: Surveillance Summaries*, 63(8), 1-18. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>.
  - <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>8</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>9</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>10</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>11</sup> Petrosky, E., Blair, J.M., Betz, C.J., Fowler, K.A., Jack, S.P.D., & Lyons, B.H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 66(28), 741-746. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6628a1.pdf>.
  - <sup>12</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>13</sup> Violence Policy Center (2019). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2017 homicide data*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

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# The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

*Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!  
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current



Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	<b>Educational Enrichment</b>	<b>Technology Literacy</b>	<b>Athletics &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>Facility Innovation</b>
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 iPad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 basketballs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 art sets for aspiring artists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe</li> </ul>
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 tennis rackets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camera security system to keep everyone safe</li> </ul>
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 computer for graphic design and website creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 sets of golf clubs for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school</li> </ul>
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best</li> </ul>
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light</li> </ul>

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE

<sup>15</sup> It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

**Proverbs 21:15**

### OCTOBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

**James Baldwin**