



RESOLUTION 8010

A Resolution Commemorating the Baptist Origins of Black Holiness Movement in Mississippi

WHEREAS, June 6, 2022, marked the 125th anniversary of the commencement of the Holiness revival shepherded by Charles Price Jones at Mt. Helm Baptist Church, Jackson’s oldest Black congregation; and

WHEREAS, Jones, a consummate Baptist pastor mentored by Elias Camp Morris, the first president of the National Baptist Convention, testified, “I had never thought of living or dying anything but a Baptist, but I had been taught that a Baptist was not known by name, but by principles”; and

WHEREAS, by the time he became the fifth pastor of Mt. Helm, Jones had an encounter with the Holy Spirit that deepened his understanding of biblical holiness and apostolic power, thus emphasizing aspects of Baptist doctrine undervalued in the post- Reconstruction era; and

WHEREAS, his being led to call all Baptists and all Christians, generally, to this deeper life in God, sparking a revival that swept throughout the Southern United States, Jones commenced this revival at Mt. Helm so that God’s people could “know the Lord better and to receive power and joy for His service”; and

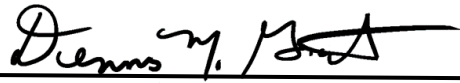
WHEREAS, his convictions were controversial, and thus led to his movement being forced out of Mt. Helm and the Convention, but as John H. Williams notes in *Black Baptists in Mississippi: The Tragedy of Unkept Vineyards*, “C.P. Jones was loved and respected, but at the time he came along, the convention (and the local Baptist church he served) was turning toward institutionalism and away from the Spirit and the Word). and

WHEREAS, Dr. CJ Rhodes, the present pastor of Mt. Helm, commemorated the origins of this revival at the church Jones once pastored, convening the denominational leaders of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention, Church of Christ (Holiness) USA, and the Church of God in Christ in a Spirit-filled and harmonious celebration;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the GMBSC acknowledges the history it played in the formation and growth of movements led by Jones, and seeks in this season to find intersecting points of interest for mission work throughout the State of Mississippi; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GMBSC supports the critical exploration of our own doctrinal convictions in conversation with sister denominations, clarifying our distinctives while observing our similarities, ultimately focusing on the Kingdom truth that there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:5-6)

Submitted this 21st day of July in the year of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ 2022.



**Dennis Grant, General Secretary
General Missionary Baptist
State Convention of Mississippi**



**Reginald M. Buckley, President
General Missionary Baptist
State Convention of Mississippi**

Submitted by Rev. Dr. C.J. Rhodes
Adopted July 21, 2022