



RESOLUTION 2013

Supporting the Need for Truth-Telling in Public Education

WHEREAS, the holy scriptures uphold the precepts of truth, truthfulness and truth-telling, in verses like John 8:32 **32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free; Philippians 4:8 **8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure....think on these things and Proverbs 12:22 **22** The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy; and

WHEREAS, truth and truth-telling are necessary parts of the moral and ethical composition of Christian conduct and character; and

WHEREAS, an inaccurate telling and re-telling of historical accounts can have detrimental impact upon the social fabric of human interrelationships; and

WHEREAS, the omission of truthful historical records damage the human condition and contribute to instances of oppression by creating false narratives that distort reality as seen in scripture when a Pharaoh who did not know Jacob came into power in Egypt and saw the growing population of the Hebrews as a threat to Egyptian life; and

WHEREAS, the absence and/or distortion of truth helps to cultivate a culture of fear of people groups which often times leads to acts of violence, the creation of systems of oppression, and broken human relationships; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation passed in Mississippi and other states around the country take aim at Critical Race Theory, an academic and legal framework that recognizes that racism is more than the result of individual bias and prejudice but, rather, is embedded in laws, policies language and institutions that uphold and reproduce racial inequalities; and

WHEREAS, the passage of such legislation threatens to change the ability of teachers of history, social studies, civics, literature and government to truthfully and thoroughly examine these subject matters with students in public classrooms across Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi history is too important of a story that necessarily requires an accurate telling, an honest examination, and a thorough interrogation to help ensure that history does not repeat itself;

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc, believes in the power and principle of truth and truth-telling in all matters - especially those that impact the dignity and destiny of humanity and human relationships.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GMBSC values the accurate recounting and retelling of history in all of its complexities and recognizes that in instances when history creates feelings of shame or guilt, these are valuable emotions that, when properly explored, can help to ensure the necessary interrogation of our practices, policies, systems, and philosophies, ultimately helping to ensure that history is not repeated.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GMBSC believes it to be vitally important for the Mississippi Department of Education to review and revise recent changes made to curriculum standards that create a pathway for lessons of history to be taught in ways that are less direct in naming important men/women, moments, movements and motivations that shape Mississippi culture and life.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that GMBSC stands with those legislators who refused to participate in the vote on Senate Bill 2113 on January 21, 2022, and that we love and pray for our state and all of her citizens that truth will not be attacked, covered or hidden but rather raised high through the efforts of loving hearts and conscientious minds that desire to see peace, justice, and a brighter future for all of Mississippi as truth sets her free.

Submitted this 14th day of March 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. Tony Montgomery
Adopted March 14, 2022