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POSITION PAPER

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AMERICA SHOULD EMBRACE ITS JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES *Fixing Our Nation's Problems Through Cooperation*

Our secular society seems to push religion, particularly Christianity, further from the public and government realms every year. The outcry against those who wish to keep Christian values within government continues to grow louder.

At Providence Baptist Church, we do not advocate any religion or faith running the government. However, we do believe that there is a need for American governments, national, state and local, to accept and partner with Christian organizations.

The United States was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. While the founding fathers made it abundantly clear that there should be a separation of church and state, it is also important to recognize that our government was designed on those principles.

Love thy neighbor, do not murder and do not steal all seem like sensible guidelines for the common good. These sensible Christian beliefs are foundations of our laws in America. Whether you are a person of faith or a secularist, there is no doubt that our nation's moral code is heavily influenced by Judeo-Christian values.

Many argue that morals are relative. If this is so, then it is apparent that the morals of

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America are relative to its Christian background. Americans who abide by our law do not promote hating their neighbor, stealing or murder. So let us not turn our backs on our morals and values.

Furthermore, if the government embraced partnerships with these organizations, it would be for the common good. The mission of most Judeo-Christian organizations is to improve the circumstances of our fellow man. This goal is no different from what we the people expect of our government.

Providence Baptist Church is proving that point. In the past, the church has served the local government in various ways. For example, at one point in time, the church acted as a school house for the Beauregard School System's kindergarten.

Recently, Providence has donated the use of its recreational fields to the Beauregard Youth Athletic Association for their tee ball league.

With the opening of Providence's new fellowship hall sometime in May, Providence hopes to make its facilities more available to the community. By partnering with local government, the church has the potential to make its facilities more useful to the surrounding community. No side is forced into this relationship, and both sides stand to benefit from such a partnership.

As we move forward in these uncertain times, it is important for America to stick to its values and invite partnership with Christian organizations not segregation and isolation. We are not asking for the church to be running the White House. All we are asking is to not exclude the church from government. If the government is for the people and by the people, then the thousands of Christians in this nation should have their voice and participation available in that public realm.

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