



**BOARD OF BISHOPS
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Bishop Albert Galbraith, Chairman**

Official Response from the Chairman of the Board of Bishops Church Of God In Christ

To the Members, Friends of the Church Of God In Christ and the Body of Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Recently, Pastor Donnie Swaggart made comments regarding the Church Of God In Christ, the Black Church, and our position on political matters, which we believe were both inappropriate and disparaging. As the largest Black Pentecostal denomination, we are a diverse body of believers who uphold Biblical values as our central focus. Our faith and commitment to God transcend political affiliations, and we believe our unity in Christ is far greater than any political differences.

Considering the history of this nation, including the specific history of the Church of God in Christ and the disunity that was a result of Jim Crow and the evils of systemic racism, these statements by Pastor Donnie Swaggart were particularly troubling and require redress. His words were little more than a device of Satan to manipulate and cause division in the Body of Christ.

In line with the principles of our Faith, our desire is unity and reconciliation, not division or animosity, but this requires a common understanding of our Biblical values, that does not entail us disparaging or disdaining one another, even when we may disagree.

While we, as a body of believers, may hold varying political views, it is crucial to remember that we are not each other's adversaries. Our struggle, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, is "not against flesh and blood" but against spiritual forces that seek to divide and destroy the Body of Christ. In this spirit, we desire unity and reconciliation, not division or animosity.

We are, therefore, publicly requesting a formal apology from Pastor Swaggart for his recent statements. Since the grievance was made publicly, we believe a public apology to Presiding Bishop J. Drew Sheard, the Church Of God In Christ, constituency of the Black Church and the entire Body of Christ is both appropriate and necessary. Such an apology would not only honor our Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle but also promote healing within the broader Christian community. We admonish you not to preach party, but to preach Jesus.

Let us remember to pray for one another, seeking the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we navigate these challenging times. May we continue to reflect Christ's love, even in the face of disagreement, and remain steadfast in our mission to serve His Kingdom.

In His Service,

Bishop Albert Galbraith and the Executive Committee

Bishop Roger L. Jones • Bishop William H. Watson • Bishop Adrian D. Williams
Bishop Tyrone W. McCombs • Bishop Christopher E. Milton • Bishop Nathiel D. D. Wells • Bishop E. Bobby Warren