

JOINT STATEMENT

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IT'S A NEW DAY: JOINT STATEMENT BY THE CAUCUS & THE BAPTIST MINISTERS ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON & VICINITY

HOUSTON, TX – The Houston GLBT Political Caucus and the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity, through recent discussion, are building a relationship that recognizes our common equal rights struggle. These commonalities present opportunities for growth and unity.

During the campaign for the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, large amounts of money were spent on targeting our transgender Houstonians and not nearly enough spent on outreach to our Black and Brown communities. The Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity apologizes for the pain this caused the LGBTQ community and we both look forward to ongoing discussions to prevent this from happening again as we collectively fight for the equality of all Houstonians. The Houston GLBT Political Caucus apologizes for not directly engaging Black and Brown communities including the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity and for the last several years have been committed to building inclusive coalitions.

“Though we may not agree on everything, we both realize that it is more that unite us than divide us. We are looking forward to more discussions to continue to build on this relationship. Our apology is sincere,” – **Pastor Max Miller**, President of the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity

“As chair of this Caucus initiative, a member of the Caucus, and a member of the community that was targeted in the effort to repeal HERO, I was happy to on behalf of the Houston transgender community convey to Pastor Miller and Reverend Wooten how harmful that anti-trans rhetoric was to our community and the Trans community at-large. We have more in common than not, in terms of wanting a Houston we can all be proud of and in which everyone's human rights and humanity is respected and protected. Trans Houstonians needed to hear an apology, and I am happy it was given. I am pleased that these conversations will continue so that we can continue the process of getting a much needed nondiscrimination ordinance in Houston,” - **Monica Roberts**, Chair of the Faith Outreach Task Force of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus

“The Caucus values the importance of reaching out to all communities when fighting for civil rights, equality, and equity. For 43 years the Caucus has been on the front lines working to advance the rights of the LGBTQ community. We recognize that as we continue to lead this fight we need an effective, and more inclusive, coalition. I strongly believe mending broken relationships is one way we can build this needed coalition together.” – **Mike Webb**, President of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus

With this understanding along with our shared commitment to ongoing dialogue, The Houston GLBT Political Caucus and the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity permits any prospective candidate for an elected office to seek endorsements from either or both organizations’ political action committees. The people of Houston deserve to live in a city free of discrimination and it will take all communities working together to achieve a more perfect Houston. Together, we are committed to ending discrimination and seeking equality, not just for each other but for our children.

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The Houston GLBT Political Caucus is the South’s oldest civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, it is the largest LGBTQ+ political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.

The Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity has been in existence since the 1940’s and our preamble states: there is an imperative need for a Christian organization of the Baptist Ministers’ and Pastors in the city of Houston & Vicinity to promote Christian Fellowship, love, trust, and mutual understanding to promote the Kingdom of God through the teachings and example of our Lord Jesus Christ; and, to preach high ethical standards among our people; we therefore, dedicate ourselves to the task of achieving these aims and trust that God Almighty will enable us to uphold this Constitution which we now establish to the honor and glory of God our Eternal Heavenly Father.