

Dear Pastor Doyle,

July 30, 2022

We come to you in the Spirit of Christian love trusting the bond that we share in Jesus Christ. We are appealing to you to withdraw your invitation to host the Reawaken America Tour at your church in Batavia.

Here are some of our concerns about this:

1. Inciting Violence and Hatred: The speakers for this event mix militant language with religious imagery while speaking of life-and-death stakes, building an implicit permission structure for audience members to commit political violence in the name of God. Although few speakers have exposed themselves to prosecution by explicitly calling for violence - strategically leaving themselves room for plausible deniability - they allow their audience to connect the dots by downplaying past political violence committed in God's name, demonizing their political opponents as "Team Satan," and urging supporters to win the battle for God against their fellow Americans. At least seven of the tour's top speakers have ties to the Proud Boys or were involved in planning and executing the January 6th insurrection, which wounded more than 140 police officers yet is defended at most tour stops. Batavia is a small, peaceful community, and it is our moral responsibility to protect it from any potential for violence.

2. Dividing Americans: The false claims of the speakers of this tour about the 2020 election, the stated vision for only one religion in our nation of religious freedom, the demonization of political opponents, and the continued attacks on our democracy are all attempts to divide Americans, pitting us against us each other. This kind of division and hate hurts communities and makes us vulnerable to more violence. We do not have to share political views to reject the hateful rhetoric and divisive language of this event and its speakers. As Jesus says, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth." Luke 17:11b

3. Distorting Christianity with Nationalism: We are so concerned that the name of Jesus is used by this tour's speakers to advance an exclusivist vision of our country as a "Christian nation," even to the point of one prominent speaker urging pastors to preach the Constitution more than we do the Bible. Seeking political power and domination of others is the opposite of what Jesus taught us about loving our neighbors. Christianity is a global religion, and America is a place that cherishes religious freedom for all people. We are patriots who love our country, yet we cannot let patriotism become a false idol. We have an American identity and a Christian identity, but they are separate.

We prayerfully urge you to cancel hosting this tour to protect our town from having to deal with division, hate, and violence in the name of Christ. Please let us know by Tuesday, August 2 what your intentions are about this event. We are holding you in our prayers as you discern.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhouri (Presbyterian -Batavia)

Ruth E. Andes, Racial Justice Working Group, Genesee Valley Presbytery and Byron Presbyterian Church

Rev. Joy Bergfalk

Rev. David R. Glassmire, (Roman Catholic, Pastor Ascension Parish -Batavia)

Rev. Bob Kaiser (Presbyterian -Rochester)

Deacon Diana Leiker (Episcopalian -Akron)

Rev. Dr. Shiela McCullough (Chaplain -Batavia)

Rev. James Morasco (American Baptist and United Church of Christ – Batavia)

Rev. Laurel Nelson (Presbyterian -Dansville)

Rev. Elaine Page (Chaplain -Batavia)

Rev. Jimmy Reader

Rev. Chava Redonnet (Chaplain -Rochester)

Rev. Jim Renfrew (Presbyterian -Byron)

Pastor Mark Ross (Presbyterian -Batavia)

Pastor Brad Smith and the Attica First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Michael Stuart (Presbyterian -Batavia)

Jim Tappan (Elder - Irondequoit Presbyterian Church)

Lucia VerTseeg (Presbyterian -Rochester)

Rev. Evan Wildhack (Presbyterian -Corfu)

Some Illustrations from the ReAwaken America Tour

“Let’s Go Brandon” chants in churches

"If we are going to have one nation under God, which we must, we have to have one religion...One nation under God and one religion under God, right? All of us, working together." Michael Flynn at a ReAwaken America Tour in Texas 2021

“What (preachers) need to be doing is they need to be talking about the Constitution from the pulpit as much as the Bible. They have to do that.” Michael Flynn

Flynn pleaded the Fifth when asked if he believed the violence of January 6 was either morally or legally justified, and also when asked if he believed in the peaceful transition of presidential power.

"The Bible say that 'we fight not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against rulers in high places.' Satan is bigger than Lindsey Graham... "Are you ready to fight with me? Shout yeah!" Rev. Mark Burns

"There is a Satanic portal above the White House, you can see it day and night. It exists. It is real. And it must be closed. And it will be closed by prayer... It popped up when Joe Biden became president, and it will be closed before he leaves." Roger Stone

Roger Stone is known for employing members of the Proud Boys, a well documented hate group, to serve as bodyguards at the Republican Party meeting in 2018. Stone also had a text thread in the run-up to January 6 with himself and the leaders of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, and had been using Oath Keepers as personal bodyguards that week - not just 2018. Tour speakers Pastor Greg Locke and worship leader Sean Feucht have similar associations with the Proud Boys.

Amanda Grace of Ark of Grace Ministries, which focuses on online prophecies about current events, appeared onstage in a Jewish-themed prayer shawl to blow a ritual horn known as a shofar. The instrument, made from a rams horn and traditionally used in Jewish worship, has become a staple of Pentecostal gatherings since being featured prominently in the Jericho March, a protest held after the 2020 presidential election and before Jan. 6. Grace told the gathering that the shofar was a “spiritual weapon” that played part in great biblical victories like the battle of Jericho, where the city’s walls fell down after the shofar was blown over a series of seven days. When the shofar is sounded, she said, God’s power is unleashed. “It’s an announcement to the enemy that his stronghold is about to fall...Demons tremble at the sound of the shofar.”

“So when I started into my research, I remember the first client calls me, ‘Are you going to meet this week with COVID?’ YES!’ I’m going to meet every week! I am 41 years old. I have not had a sick day in 23 years. I don’t call in sick, I don’t call in gay, I don’t call in gender-confused.” Clay Clark (Event Host)

This tour has been featuring people arrested for storming the Capitol, as well as the family of the woman police shot in the House chamber.

Host Clay Clark tell the audience they're "Team Jesus" and that Fauci, Biden, and Bill Gates are "Team Satan" Clark teaches that Bill Gates put Jeffrey Epstein's DNA in the COVID-19 vaccines to create a new race of superhumans. He also says he's anti ALL vaccines, not just COVID vaccines.

Right-wing conspiracy theorist Patrick Byrne, brags about trying to set the FBI up on "a rape and murder charge" by offering to murder his girlfriend.

Stalking the stage at the ReAwaken America event in January 2022 while brandishing a tomahawk at the rally, Scott McKay declared that "World War IV" is underway and warned doctors and nurses that if they "have the courage to kill our people, you better have the courage to stand in a direct crosshairs of Patriot Streetfighter because this is now going to happen."

Following his remarks at the event, McKay sat down for an interview with David Scarlett of the program "His Glory" where McKay explicitly threatened violence, "I'm going to name names -show pictures where I can--these are the nurses, doctors involved in murdering these people, and I'm going to start pushing these people into the public eye... Let's see how they like that battlefield...We can't allow the enemy or anybody to use our virtues against us...I don't allow anybody to use the semantics of language or use my virtues against me. This is war. It's gonna get bloody, and I'm going to get ugly too; no less ugly than any 1776 preacher that dropped his Bible on the lectern, grabbed his muzzle loader or musket, and went out and put balls and bullets inside people and watched blood flow on a battlefield. That's what they had to do. That's the name of Christ...It's an evil enemy...Any of the minions, including the doctors and nurses who were part of it -knowingly or unknowingly, that's not for me to sort out--but they need to know what's coming next. And that's the only other battle that I can see in my future now coming up after what happened to Cirsten W."

Sherry Tinpenny falsely claims that vaccines cause autism.

John Kennedy Jr. claims that vaccines kill children.

Michael Flynn and Sydney Powell implored Trump to just ignore the Constitution and establish a "salvation" government.

Q-Anon wanted Trump to order the mass arrest and murder of Democrats, who they believed to be cannibalistic child killers.