



**HISTORICAL LOUISIANA FIRST JURISDICTION**

**Church Of God In Christ, Inc.**

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Jurisdictional Prelate

## **OFFICE OF THE EPISCOPACY**

Historical Louisiana First Jurisdiction  
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
Public Relations Department

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CROWLEY, LA, October 24, 2024** - As leaders of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. in the state of Louisiana, we feel compelled to respond to the remarks of Pastor Donnie Swaggart of Family Worship Center Church located in Baton Rouge, LA.

Pastor Donnie remarked that the Black Church votes with the party that's "anti-God." First and foremost, the Black Church is not monolithic. Though he qualified it with "predominantly," the connotation was clear. Secondly, the statement has a faulty premise. God has a Kingdom, not a party; and it is every believer's duty to seek and align to its constitution (God's Word) through prayer, teaching, and discernment that comes from His Spirit. The Word is unchangeable, yet believers often have differences of opinion when it comes to living out Biblical principles in the earth realm, including but not limited to, the electoral process.

When differences lead to conflict, Jesus offers us a solution for resolution in Matthew 18:15-17, "*Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglects to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*" Pastor Donnie misses the mark.

Thirdly, the Black Church has not always voted overwhelmingly with the Democratic Party. From the Reconstruction Era through the mid-20th Century, many African Americans voted for the Republican Party, which mostly supported the abolition of slavery, electoral representation, and measures to achieve social progress. FDR's New Deal and the Civil Rights Movement both proved pivotal to the current trends of party affiliation. It is, therefore, quite possible that the Black Church is not blindly supporting a party that is "anti-God," but intentionally supporting a party that is "pro-policies" Pastor Donnie failed to enumerate like education, immigration reform, access to healthcare, expanding voting rights, social justice, and affordable housing to name a few. The Republican Party of yesteryear supported many of these things. Traditionally, Black support within the two-party system has been driven by policy.

Finally, Pastor Donnie stated that "somebody needs to stand up and speak **TO** the Black Church." Cultural competence teaches that respect and civility are paramount when interacting with people of different backgrounds. If "somebody" lacks these qualities, the message is usually lost, no matter the intent.

We invite our fellow Louisianan and brother in Christ to speak **WITH** us, as Black pastors about the Black Church. Prayerfully we can have a more constructive dialogue.

*The Church Of God In Christ is one of the largest Pentecostal-Holiness Christian denominations in the world, with 13,000 churches in 105 countries and millions of adherents worldwide. Founded in 1907 by Bishop Charles Harrison Mason in Memphis, Tennessee, COGIC is known for its emphasis on spiritual empowerment, evangelism, and social justice. Historical Louisiana First Jurisdiction is a diocese within the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*

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