

January 31, 2017

Statement by Ted S. Spangenberg, Jr., President, Association of Baptists for Scouting

Legislative actions in our states, rulings by our courts, and discussions in our society clearly highlight the extreme need for a biblical Christian influence and ministry in all aspects of our community life. There is no doubt in my mind that all children, adolescents, and youth, particularly those who struggle with sexual orientation and gender identity – and the parents who struggle with their children in all aspects of their life – have a need for the help and hope that is available through the gospel of Jesus Christ and the ministry of congregations that are His.

Most of us Christians would, likely, rather not even have to think on these issues and how to minister to the unique needs that arise with the struggles of gender identity. But we are here in this world, and we are called by God to minister to the needs around us. I continue to hold, and have personally experienced, that many families will more likely seek out the activities and programs available to them through the Boy Scouts of America and its chartered partners than the programs of the traditional local “church.” These families need to also be reached!

The fields are clearly “white unto harvest.” All Christian churches might ponder the question of “what are we doing to minister to families struggling with transgender issues?” A Baptist church which has the courage, insight, and inspiration to charter a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop, or a Venture crew as a method of outreach and harvest in their community – to all of its children, adolescents, and youth and their families – deserves our appreciation and support! As Scout leaders appointed by that church - based on that church's standards - serve in these Scout units, they have a unique opportunity to be obedient to the Great Commission given by our Savior. The Baptist adults who volunteer to serve as leaders in Scout units chartered to organizations other than Baptist churches have also committed themselves to ministry in a unique and innovative way.

I pray for all!