american
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PATRICK VAUGHN
GENERAL COUNSEL
P.O. Box 2440 • Tupelo, MS 38803
Tel: 662-844-5036 • Fax: 662-821-2044
E-mail: vaughn@afa.net

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Julian Bond, Emeritus
Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104

<div align="center">

RE: Renunciation of Statements by Bryan Fischer

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Dear Mr. Bond:

Media rarely give time or print for anyone other than a syndicated columnist to express ideas that conflict with the organization. That makes the "unity and diversity" policy followed by AFA President Tim Wildmon a puzzle to AFA's critics.

The unity that Wildmon requires from speakers on AFA's three radio networks or bloggers on its webpages is allegiance to the authority of Scripture and to traditional Christian values. Within that unity, Wildmon gives AFA's employees, on-air personalities and writers a startling amount of freedom regarding what topics they discuss and how they handle them. Within the unity of attempting to apply the Bible to events and policies, AFA hosts a "free speech zone." Unlike most media outlets, AFA does not operate with an editorial board or a review panel that screens what is broadcast or printed. For example, that freedom allowed Wil and Meeke Addison on AFA's Urban Family Network stations to discuss the Ferguson shooting from quite a different perspective than Crane Durham expressed during his St. Louis-based *Nothing But Truth* program. AFA's "unity and diversity" policy poses some risks, but also allows a flourishing of Christian thought and expression in the application of biblical principles.

Occasionally the risks inherent in providing many Christian voices a free speech zone in its media requires AFA to disclaim statements made on one of its media outlets. AFA has concluded that it must renounce some statements made by American Family Radio talk-show host Bryan Fischer. In its 37-year history, AFA has never held these views and wishes to clarify that it still rejects such sentiments:

> **AFA rejects the idea expressed by Bryan Fischer that "Free exercise of religion" only applies to Christians. Consequently, AFA rejects Bryan's assertions that Muslims should not be granted permits to build mosques in the United States;**

and that a "sensible and sane immigration policy" would model "ancient Israel" and require every immigrant to "convert to Christianity."

AFA rejects the ideas expressed by Bryan Fischer that the violent expulsion of Native Americans was divinely ordained and that, "Superstition, savagery and sexual immorality" morally disqualified Native Americans from "sovereign control of American soil."

AFA rejects the ideas expressed by Bryan Fischer that "we" need to clamp down on immigration because Hispanics are socialist by nature and vote Democratic because it allows them to "benefit from the plunder of the wealth of the United States."

AFA rejects Bryan Fischer's characterization of minorities as "people who rut like rabbits."

AFA rejects the statement by Bryan Fischer that, "Homosexuality gave us Adolph Hitler, and homosexuals in the military gave us the Brown Shirts, the Nazi war machine and six million dead Jews."

AFA rejects the policy advocated by Bryan Fischer that homosexual conduct should be illegal.

AFA rejects the notion advocated by Bryan Fischer that, "We need an underground railroad to protect innocent children from same-sex households."

AFA rejects Bryan Fischer's statement that, "[I]f Hillary Clinton becomes president in 2016, she will not only be our first female president, she could be our first lesbian president."

Bryan is no longer a spokesperson for AFA nor will he continue as AFA Director of Issue Analysis. Nevertheless, in following AFA's policy of allowing unity and diversity, Bryan will continue to host the *Focal Point* radio program and continue blogging. While he will continue to speak on his program, as AFA's disclaimer has *always* stated, what he says will not necessarily reflect the views of AFA. (Consider: Would any "Progressive" media outlet allow "freedom of expression" to this extent?)

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has often cited the above statements by Bryan Fischer and attributed them as views held by the American Family Association. This letter will serve to clarify that AFA does not hold these views and that AFA has renounced Bryan Fischer's statements. If you choose to quote these or related statements by Mr. Fischer in the future, you can accurately report that they came out in AFA media, but do not attribute them as expressing the views of the American Family Association. I have described the way "unity and diversity"
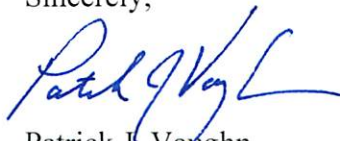
provides a "free speech zone" for the voices on AFA media to clarify how Mr. Fischer's statements can be aired without being the viewpoint of AFA.

Bryan Fischer has hosted the *Focal Point* talk show two hours a day, five days a week, since July of 2009. That makes for a lot of sound bites. If SPLC interprets any other statements made by Mr. Fischer as reflecting AFA's position, I will be glad to clarify whether AFA agrees with or rejects what Mr. Fischer has said. The purpose of this letter is to reject Mr. Fischer's statements quoted above. If you would like a statement of AFA's views on the various topics covered in those quotes I will provide them upon request. AFA's views reflect historic and orthodox teaching of Christianity. AFA agrees with the SPLC that hatred and violence are wrong and AFA has never advocated such positions.

In light of this notice, do not continue to charge AFA with the statements by Bryan Fischer that we have repudiated. When identifying "hate groups" in the context of training military or law enforcement personnel, do not put AFA in a false light by quoting Mr. Fischer's statements that we have repudiated.

AFA would prefer that SPLC stop calling us a hate group, but it is a free country. Please respect the people who trust your information by not charging AFA with statements or views we have repudiated.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Vaughn
General Counsel

PJV/tgr