

Pastor Paul Doyle

Cornerstone Church

8020 Bank Street Road

Batavia, New York 14020

Dear Pastor Doyle:

As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we as religious and secular leaders from across the state and nation including from those who will see the presence of the Reawaken America Tour in their state, write to strongly add our support to the letter given to you by several faith leaders in Batavia and Western New York. That letter, which is below, called on you to cancel hosting the tour's event scheduled to be held at Cornerstone Church on August 12 and 13.

Out of concern for the Gospel and the divisiveness this tour has promoted across our country and is already promoting in Batavia, we call on you to take seriously the request from your fellow faith leaders and stop this event from happening.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches

The Reverend Laura Bachmann, Presbyterian Church, USA, Rochester

The Reverend Steven Wilson, Sr. Senior Pastor, Genesee Baptist Church

The Reverend Sandra Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach, Penn. Council of Churches

The Reverend Doug Mackey, Pastor, Scotia and Faith United Methodist Churches, Schenectady

Mr. Howard Henry, Elder, University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo

The Reverend Julius D. Jackson Jr, Pastor, Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Henrietta, NY

The Reverend Dr. Mary Foulke, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Harlem

The Reverend Heather Kirk-Davidoff, Minister, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany

The Reverend Dr. William Wilkinson, Pastor, Medina First Presbyterian Church, Medina

The Reverend Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Priest in Charge, St. James Episcopal Church, Batavia

The Reverend Garrett Anderson, Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, NY

The Reverend Dr. Bruce McKay, Retired Pastor, United Church of Christ, Buffalo

Ms. Marietta Bratton, Deacon, University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo

Ms. E. Magalene McClarrin, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Presbytery of Long Island

The Reverend Dr. Yaw Frimpong-Manso, Pastor, Emmanuel Presbyterian Reformed Church, Bronx

The Reverend Katelyn Nutter Dowling, Associate Pastor for Christian Education, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo

The Reverend Frank Nichols, Retired Chaplain, Canandaigua, NY

The Reverend Andrea Abbott, Retired, Baldwinsville, NY

Mrs. Sally Zelasko, Co-Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, Orchard Park Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Mr. Chuck Zelasko, Clerk of Orchard Park Friends Meeting, Orchard Park, NY

Mrs. Carmel Merrill, a concerned citizen, Rochester, NY

Mr. Michael Tritto, Buffalo, NY

Mr. Scott Taylor, Orchard Park Society of Friends

Ms. Mary Kkaus, Orchard Park Friends Meeting

Elder Phyllis Montanari, Elder, Faith Reformed Church, Montgomery, NY

Ms. Susan Lerner, Executive Director, Common Cause NY, New York, NY

Mrs. Joanne Fisher, Oneonta, NY

Mr. Lee Fisher, President, NAACP Oneonta Area Branch, Oneonta, NY

Mr. Ralph Carter, Elder, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Ms. Darleen Farley, Clifton Springs, NY

Ms. Lu Harper, Rochester Friends Meeting, Rochester, NY

Ms. Katherine Tussing, Buffalo Friends Meeting, Buffalo

The Reverend Tedd Pullano, Associate Pastor, Third Presbyterian Church, Penfield, NY

Ms. Elaine Swaine, Elder, University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY

Dr. LeeAnn Grace, University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY

Ms. Kathleen FitzPatrick, Amber Light International, Pittsford, NY

Mr. Lincoln Spaulding, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Mr. Tom Gillett, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Ms. Monica Gebell, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Rochester, NY

Pastor Larry Jackson, Grace United Church of Christ, Buffalo, NY

Mrs. Patricia Singh, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Ms. Cynthia Nado, Religious Society of Friends, Victor, NY

Ms. Elise DeGooyer, Executive Director, Faith Action Network, Washington

The Reverend John Long, Pastoral Associate, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY

Sister Catherine Darcy, RSM, Justice Research Manager, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Albany

Sister Diane Swanson, Sister Life Minister, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Buffalo

Ms. Carol Coons, Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Ms. Virginia Fifield, Associate Sister of Mercy, Rochester Board Member, Rochester, NY

Ms. Laurie Mahoney, Co-Facilitator RocCCU, Co-Chair Racism Task Force, Third Presby. Ch. Rochester

Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, Chair Racial Justice Committee, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo

Mr. Roger Cook, Board Co-Chair, Riverside-Salem United Church of Christ, Grand Island, NY

The Reverend Keith Patterson, Rector, Episcopal Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester

Ms. Rebecca Johnson, Rochester, NY

The Reverend Dr. Jimmy Reader, Retired Minister, American Baptist Churches, Rochester, NY

The Reverend Timothy Brown, President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo and Vicinity

The Reverend Merle Showers, University United Methodist Church, Buffalo, NY

Ms. Brenda Kuciemba, 15<sup>th</sup> Street Friends Meeting (Quakers), New York, NY

Sister Eileen O'Connor, Sister, Amherst, NY

Mrs. Janet Mazzaroppi, Elder, University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, NY

Mrs. Sara Schultz, Temple Beth Zion, Williamsville, NY

Mr. Robert Ciesielski, Steering Committee Member, Interfaith Climate Justice Community, Buffalo

Dr. Colette Carse, Buffalo, NY

The Reverend Marcia Reiff, Pastor, Dansville Presbyterian Church, Dansville, NY

Mr. Santiago F. Masferrer, Founder of EL BUEN AMIGO, Fair Trade Store, Latin American Cultural Association, Inc. Buffalo, NY

Ms. Susan Tannehill, Clerk of Stewardship Committee, Buffalo Quaker Meeting, Buffalo, NY

Ms. Janice Mahoney, Piece of Work, Rochester, NY

The Reverend David Pepper, Presbyterian Minister, New York

Mr. Chuck Culhane, Paralegal, R-S United Church of Christ, Grand Island, NY

The Reverend Carolyn Grohman, Retired Presbyterian Pastor, Rochester, NY

The Reverend Robert Golden, Chair of Social Justice, Holy Family Church, Albion, NY Past Chair of President Reagan's Immigrant/Migrant farmworker's Health Council, Buffalo; Diocese sub-committee on Refugee and Immigrants; NY State Probation Commission, 43 years' experience in criminal justice

Ms. Susan Howard, Retired Roman Catholic Pastoral Associate, Rochester, NY

Sister Donna Del Santo SSJ, Sisters of Saint Joseph, Rochester, NY

The Reverend Harriet McConnochie, Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Pittsford, NY

Ms. Janet Chaize, Rochester Community of Mindful Living: affiliated with Peace Activist and Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, Rush, NY

Ms. Marie Peterson, Rochester, NY

Ms. Melinda Shaffer, Penfield Presbyterian Church, Penfield, NY

The Reverend Marissa Mattox Heffernan, Rochester, NY

Pat Cookfair-Casseri, Elder, University Presbyterian Church, Tonawanda, NY

Dr. Debbie Almontaser, CEO and Founder, Muslim Community Network, NY

The Reverend Dustin Longmire, Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Schenectady, NY

The Reverend Brian Rotach, Retired Pastor, Seneca Street United Methodist Church, Amherst, NY

The Reverend Charles King, CEO, Housing Works, Inc. Brooklyn

The Reverend Jennifer DeWeerth, Ordained Clergy United Church of Christ, Clinton, NY

The Reverend John Paarlberg, Retired Pastor, Loudonville, NY

The Reverend Donna Elia, Executive Director, Troy Area United Ministries; Pastor, St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, Troy, NY

The Reverend Dr. Laurel Scott, Mt. Vernon, NY

Mr. Gary VanKennen, President, New York State Council of Churches Executive Committee, Massena, NY

Mrs. Mary Smith, Communications Director, NYS Church Women United, Rochester, NY

The Reverend Elisabeth Aurand, Pastor, St. John's & St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, Canajoharie, NY

The Reverend John Flack, Pastor, Our Saviour's Atonement Lutheran Church, New York, NY

The Reverend Kathy Donley, Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Albany, NY

Ms. Linda Babcock, Elder, Presbyterian, Orchard Park, NY

The Reverend Robert Perry, Presiding Bishop, Greater Faith Pentecostal Church Fellowship, Utica, NY

The Reverend Beth DuBois, Pastoral Associate, University United Methodist Church, Syracuse, NY

The Reverend Daniel Ranney, Chaplain, Great Meadow Correctional Facility, Granville, NY

Dr. Janette Henderson, Racial Justice Working Group, Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Pittsford, NY

The Reverend Vivian Waltz, Deacon, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, Buffalo, NY

#### LETTER FROM BATAVIA REGION FAITH LEADERS AND ATTACHMENTS

***Dear Pastor Doyle:***

***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,***

***The Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhouri (Presbyterian -Batavia)***

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

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

***The Rev. Bob Kaiser (Presbyterian -Rochester)***

***Deacon Diana Leiker (Episcopalian -Akron)***

***The Rev. Dr. Shiela McCullough (Chaplain -Batavia)***

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

***The Rev. Laurel Nelson (Presbyterian -Dansville)***

***The Rev. Elaine Page (Chaplain -Batavia)***

***The Rev. Jimmy Reader***

***The Rev. Chava Redonnet (Chaplain -Rochester)***

***The Rev. Jim Renfrew (Presbyterian -Byron)***

***Pastor Mark Ross (Presbyterian -Batavia)***

***Pastor Brad Smith and the Attica First Presbyterian Church***

***The Rev. Michael Stuart (Presbyterian -Batavia)***

***Jim Tappon (Elder - Irondequoit Presbyterian Church)***

***Lucia VerTseeg (Presbyterian -Rochester)***

***The 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 super-humans. 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.



The speakers appearing at the 'Reawaken America' are as follows, according to websites promoting the event: Dr. Mark Sherwood, Leigh Dundas, Richard Bartlett, MD, Scott McKay, Pastor David Scarlett, Pastor Mark Burns, Pastor Phil Hotsenpiller, John Chambers, Carrie Madej, MD, Pastor Leon Benjamin, Ann Vandersteel, Pastor Greg Locke, Scott Kesterson, Ian Smith, Clay Clark, DR. Jim Meehan, Floyd Brown, Dr. Simone Gold, Gene Ho, General Michael Flynn, Patrick Byrne, Joey Gilbert, Amanda Grace, Lori Gregory, Andy Wakefield, David Rodriguez, Pastor Jackson Lahmeyer, Bryan Ardis, Judy Mikovits, Steve Strang, Dr. Stella Immanuel, Seth Holehouse, The Burns Family, Flyover Conservatives, Bianca Garcia, Todd Coconato, Chad Prather, Vanessa Clark, Dr. Fleming, Brendan Witt, Seth Keshel, Roger Stone, Karen Kingston, Aiya Kelley, Wendy Rogers, Kevin Jenkins, and Bo Polny.

The following information about some of the speakers was obtained from various articles and internet sources.

### **Clay Clark**

Clay Clark is the organizer of this event. He is a businessman and entrepreneur. He is being sued by an executive at Dominion Voting machines based on false statements he made about the voting machines used in the 2020 election. From the Statesman Journal, an online newspaper, about Mr. Clark: journal – “Speaker Mel K and tour organizer Clay Clark both said a Jewish person was responsible for masterminding COVID-19.”

Dr. Carrie Madej – Dr. Madej is an anti-vaccine activist who promotes the idea that vaccines change your genetic material.

**Leigh Dundas:** Leigh Dundas is an attorney. She has helped organize the truck convoys opposing vaccine mandates. She engages in violent rhetoric, as noted below. This is from an article about her posted on Talking Points Memo <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/.../leigh-undas-truckers...> On Jan. 5, 2021, Orange County attorney Leigh Dundas was enraged — and she was in D.C. “We would be well within our rights to take any alleged American who acted in a turncoat fashion and sold us out and committed treason — we would be well within our right to take them out back and shoot them or hang them,” Dundas thundered, speaking from a stage.

On January 6, Dundas was present at the Capitol insurrection and gave a speech once again promoting violence, telling a crowd to “stand the hell up because you are far better off fighting on your feet and being prepared to die on your feet than living a life on your damned knees.” Dundas is even on video that day standing just feet away from the notorious “QAnon Shaman” outside the building’s main doors.

Dundas has compared Biden’s election and COVID-19 measures to the Holocaust. Dundas has also compared President Joe Biden’s election to “a Second Holocaust.” This wasn’t a one-time comment, as Dundas regularly downplays the severity of the Holocaust in order to criticize COVID-19 policy measures. A recent op-ed in The Jerusalem Post defined this dangerous practice of intentionally diluting

the memory of the Holocaust, arguing that such comparisons are “an insult not only to history itself but especially to the 6 million Jews who were murdered.”

**Scott McKay** – Scott McKay is one of the pastors on this tour. He uses the word “forkin” to substitute for another word. Here are some quotes from speeches he has given and comments he has made, described in The Daily Beast <https://www.thedailybeast.com/meet-the-tomahawk-toting...>: “You forkin’ scumbags will not walk away from this clean,” McKay said in his video, addressing the school board members. “Believe me. Because when this army, the Patriot Streetfighter nation comes at you, you’re forked. So I would say, run the white flag up the pole now because if you haven’t

realized at this point with these ladies that they’re coming, all you shitheads, there will be nowhere to run. There’s nowhere to run. You’re all hypocrites, you’re forkin’ scumbag losers.” McKay said he wanted to see a world where officials like Lovestad and Tagliareni were “yelled at” and “scorned” wherever they went.

“Ok, Lori Lovestad, you now have been called because this particular episode is probably going to get about half-a-million to a million views,” McKay said, later adding, “You want to be famous, now you are.”

In the school-board video, McKay also promoted the idea of using violence against police officers who enforce coronavirus restrictions.

“Sooner or later, we the people show up with arms, outnumbering you 50-to-1,” McKay said. “Then at that point, you’re going to have a decision to make. Do you want to go home, or do you not want to go home to your family?”

At a rally in Nebraska, McKay explained the tomahawk’s significance. If the Democratic officials McKay claims make up the “cabal” will resign peacefully, he’ll share the peace pipe with them. But if officials refuse his demands, they’ll face the tomahawk.

“It’s symbolic of what we are going to do to the political class in this country,” McKay said as he cut the air with the blade, later adding, “If they choose to maintain their current course and the destruction of humanity, the only thing left in this peace pipe is the blade of war of the American people.” In the Statesman Journal story about the Reawaken tour

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/.../oregon.../65350085007/>, it was noted,

Another speaker, Scott McKay, used a code word at a different stop of the tour to claim a Jewish global mafia is responsible for “killing you in hospitals; they’re killing you in the streets; they launched antifa and BLM.” In Keizer, he added he would like to punch the people who demonstrated against the tour.

### **Pastor Mark Burns**

From Newsweek: <https://www.newsweek.com/pro-trump-pastor-rails-against...> “We need to replace God at the center of American politics. The separation between church and state was not designed to

keep the church out of the government, it was designed to keep the government out of the church," Burns said, continuing his remarks, the Miami Herald first reported. Last month, he spoke at a right-wing ReAwaken America event in Canton, Ohio, where he said God was "raising up armies" to help conservatives "shut down" Democratic-led America. "God is raising up armies that we are going to start having civil disobedience in America," Burns told the crowd gathered at the Trinity Gospel Temple church, where that event took place. The pastor compared Trump's right-wing movement to the actions of Civil Rights activists as they protested against segregation in the South.

"We are going to shut down this America led by racist, liberal, race-baiting Democrats," Burns said. He then dropped the mic and paced on stage, fist raised, as the crowd cheered. "Are you ready to fight with me? Shout yeah!"

### **Pastor Phil Hotsenpiller**

From the Orange County Register: <https://www.ocregister.com/.../some-southern-california.../> "I am a Christian and we are a nation," said Hotsenpiller, who regularly preaches in front of a large projected image of the American flag. "So, to be anything other than nationalist, I don't understand." Pastor Greg Locke

Many of the speakers liken Democrats to demons, and demonize them in their speeches.

From Newsweek, <https://www.newsweek.com/pastor-greg-locke-claims-he-gave...> here are some quotes from and about **Greg Locke**:

A right-wing Tennessee pastor who said Democrats could not be Christians due to the party's pro abortion rights stance has claimed he has given up his tax-exempt status.

Pastor Greg Locke, of Mt. Juliet's Global Vision Bible Church, near Nashville, previously told his congregation that he considered Democrats to be "baby butchers."

He said earlier this month: "You cannot be a Christian and vote Democrat in this nation. I don't care how mad that makes you. You can get as p\*\*\*ed off as you want to. You cannot be a Christian and vote Democrat in this nation. They are God-denying demons that butcher babies and hate this nation."

Locke has previously made headlines over his incendiary comments, including threatening to expose members of his church for being "witches." In January, Locke organized a burning of Harry Potter and Twilight books as well as other items at the church.

The controversial pastor also called President Joe Biden the "real virus in this country" during the COVID-19 pandemic and said that only "crack-smoking, demon-possessed leftists" believed he won the 2020 election over Donald Trump. He also vowed to remove anyone from his church who wore a face mask due to concern about their health during the pandemic.

In 2021, it was noted in the NY Times <https://www.nytimes.com/.../evangelical-churches-trump...> Greg Locke, a preacher who leads the Global Vision Bible Church in Mount Juliet, Tenn., spoke alongside Alex Jones of Infowars at a “Rally for Revival” demonstration in Washington the night before the Jan. 6 attack. Mr. Locke offered a prayer for the Proud Boys, the violent far-right group,

and for Enrique Tarrio, the organization’s leader who has since been indicted on charges of conspiracy for his role in the Capitol insurrection.

For those who are not familiar with the “Proud Boys,” this is what the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has said:

Though its promoters claimed the rally was about “spreading LOVE not HATE,” Proud Boys and others mixed violent rhetoric with fantasies of martyrdom in statements they made to the press in the midst of the skirmishes. “I’m sick and tired and if we have to die to defend ourself, our families, and our fucking freedom in America, we’re gonna do it. We’re gonna lay our lives down,” Tusitala “Tiny” Toese said on footage captured by independent journalistic outlet News2Share. Toese was released from prison in December 2020, where he was serving time for violating his probation that stemmed from a 2018 assault.

One man with his face covered yelled, “You f... around you found out today, baby!” – a menacing slogan popularized by the Proud Boys. Toese responded: “That’s our message to you, antifa. The Americans are coming out and we’re sick and tired of this shit. And if we have to fight fire with fire we’re gonna f... do it.”

Also from the SPLC:

In Nevada, **Proud Boys** have tried to exert control over the local GOP. In Kansas City, Josh Wells, a Proud Boy running for school board, told undercover antifascists in April that he wants “white nationalism and or a pro-Western Christian theocracy with a protected white majority status. Whichever one is more obtainable.” Luis Miguel, an underdog U.S. Senate candidate in Florida, declared in July his commitment to the far-right activists who attended his campaign events: “Proud Boys, Oathkeepers and Threepencers have often been the only ones defending innocent Americans from violent Antifa commies. I am PROUD to stand with these patriots.” Often the racist and xenophobic rhetoric from these groups is couched in language about “real Americans” and “taking our country back.” If you have been following the January 6th hearings and news, they were instrumental in planning the insurrection, breaking into the Capitol, and engaging in violence. I believe that with supporters such as Locke and Roger Stone (below) speaking, we are likely to be visited by large numbers of this hate group.

Gene Ho – Gene Ho, like several others on the tour, is a proponent of Q Anon.

### **Retired General Michael Flynn**

Michael Flynn may be one of the best known individuals on the tour. He has a long history of antisemitic, anti-Muslim and biased comments. From a 2016 tweet, “The corrupt Democratic machine will do and say anything to get #NeverHillary into power. This is a new low,” he tweeted,

sharing a link to a tweet from a user named Saint Bibiana (@30PiecesofAG\_) who wrote “CNN implicated. ‘The USSR is to blame!’ ... Not anymore, Jews. Not anymore.”

It was also noted in 2016, “The man whom President-elect Donald Trump picked as his national security adviser has said he doesn’t believe that all cultures are ‘morally equivalent’ and once described Islam as ‘a cancer,’; comments that have many in the Muslim community worried about what his new job might mean for them.”

During this Reawaken tour, Flynn’s comments were described in an article from the Forward <https://forward.com/.../america-needs-one-religion-under.../> as follows:

Speaking during an appearance at the ReAwaken America tour – which featured fringe conspiracy theorists like MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, longtime Trump ally Roger Stone and pro-Trump attorney L. Lin Wood – the forcibly retired lieutenant general declared that, contrary to the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion, “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.” An organization known as GLAAD noted the following about Flynn:

(He critiqued the Obama administration’s move to advance LGBT rights), calling President Obama “spineless” and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “reckless,” and demeaned the struggle for transgender rights stating: “Our soldiers... deserve to hear from our leaders with clarity and precision... Too often... our troops are instead are distracted by trivial matters, trivial matters about what words to use, what terminology is politically correct and what bathroom door to open up.” (GLAAD also noted that he had) boasted that he does not consider Islam a religion: “I don’t call this a religion, okay?... Islam is a political ideology based on this religion. In our case, in the United States of America, they mask behind the religion because of our constitutional right to freedom of religion.” — Further claimed: “Islam is a political ideology. It is a political ideology. It definitely hides behind this notion of it being a religion...It’s like cancer. You know, I’ve gone through cancer in my own life. So it’s like cancer. And it’s a like a malignant cancer, though, in this case. It has metastasized.” — Tweeted that “Fear of Muslims is RATIONAL.”

—Dared “Arab & Persian world ‘leaders’ to step up to the plate and declare their Islamic ideology sick and must B healed.”

—Tweeted a story that implied there are no “moderate” Muslims: “The term ‘moderate Islam’ is ugly and offensive.”

—Claimed progressives are racist: “I’m on my soapbox right now, and I’m sorry, but you’re gonna see, and you’re gonna hear, words like, ‘Donald Trump’s dangerous,’ ‘Donald Trump’s a racist.’ But you know who the racists are? The racists are those in the progressive movement. The dangerous elements are those in the progressive movement, those that want to change this country into something that it is not, something that it was never created to be.”

—Claimed of Muslims: “Islamism, it is a vicious cancer inside the body of 1.7 billion people on this planet and it has to be excised.”

—Insisted that some human beings are “illegal,” not undocumented.

### **Bo Polny**

I tried to watch some of Bo Polny’s videos. Though it was difficult to understand, it seemed there was a theme of antisemitism as he made statements about Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Rosh Hashanah, a major Jewish holiday.

### **Roger Stone**

From an ABC news article <https://abcnews.go.com/.../capitol-police.../story...> about Roger Stone and others:

Seven U.S. Capitol Police officers are suing former President Donald Trump, his campaign, his associate Roger Stone, and members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, alleging that "their unlawful efforts culminated in the Jan. 6 mass attack on the United States Capitol." The lawsuit, filed on Thursday in federal court, alleges that the defendants violated the federal KKK Act and the D.C. Bias Related Crimes Act, both of which protect victims of prejudice against political violence and intimidation.

"Trump and other Defendants propagated false claims of election fraud, encouraged the use of force, intimidation, and threats, and incited violence against members of Congress and the law enforcement officers whose job it was to protect them," the lawsuit says. "Defendants' unlawful efforts culminated in the January 6 mass attack on the United States Capitol and the brutal, physical assault of hundreds of law enforcement officers. Many Defendants in this case planned, aided, and actively participated in that attack. All Defendants are responsible for it."

Stone’s affiliation with the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys is several years old. Under oath in February 2019, Stone testified that he had “volunteers” who worked for him, including Tarrio and Proud Boy Jacob Engles. Stone testified that their relationship was so close that Tarrio and Engles had access to his personal phone and social media accounts.

One of the first images of Stone with the Proud Boys was taken in March 2018 in Salem, Oregon. Stone was photographed making the “OK” hand gesture, which has been appropriated by white supremacist groups as a symbol for “white power.” The photo was originally shared by fascistic InfoWars host and fellow “Stop the Steal” organizer Alex Jones on Twitter. Jones captioned the image, “InfoWars Roger Stone joined the @proudboysUSA in Salem Oregon tonight. I joined them in spirit!”

Proud Boys: From Wikipedia (I confess, it was growing late as I was doing research) Proud boys - The Proud Boys is an American far-right, neo-fascist, and exclusively male organization that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States.[1][6] Five leaders of the group, including its former chairman, were federally indicted on seditious conspiracy charges in June 2022, for their alleged roles in the 2021 United States Capitol attack.[7]

The group originated in the far-right Taki's Magazine in 2016 under the leadership of Vice Media co founder and former commentator Gavin McInnes,[1] taking its name from the song "Proud of Your Boy" from the 2011 Disney musical Aladdin.[8] Although the Proud Boys initially emerged as part of the alt-right,[1] McInnes distanced himself from this movement in early 2017, saying the Proud Boys were alt-lite while the alt-right's focus was on race.[9] The re-branding effort intensified following the white supremacist Unite the Right rally.[10] Enrique Tarrio has been the chairman of the Proud Boys since late 2018.[1][11][12][13] According to a former federal prosecutor and the transcripts of a 2014 federal court proceeding, Tarrio had previously served as an informant to both federal and local law enforcement.[1][14][15]

According to Samantha Kutner of the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, the group believes men and Western culture are under siege. Although the group officially rejects white supremacy, Kutner believes that "Western chauvinism" is a code for the White genocide conspiracy theory.[16] Furthermore, members have in the past participated in overtly racist events and events centered around fascist, anti-left, and anti-socialist violence.[16] The Proud Boys glorifies violence, and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has called the group an "alt-right fight club" that uses rhetorical

devices to obscure its actual motives.[17][18][19] The organization has been described as a hate group by NPR's The Takeaway and the SPLC.[20] The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has described the Proud Boys as "extremist conservative" and "alt lite", "overtly Islamophobic and misogynistic", "transphobic and anti-immigration", "all too willing to embrace racists, antisemites and bigots of all kinds", and notes the group's promotion and use of violence as a core tactic.[21]

Oath keepers – From the Southern Poverty Law Center

Oath Keepers showed up at Black Lives Matter protests during protests in summer 2020 following the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man. In response to the racial unrest that followed, Rhodes posted the following statement to the group's Facebook account: "I see some of you conflicted about how to handle what's going on in the streets of this country, I too was conflicted but let me say this. Maybe you better read that Oath again it said protect the constitution from all enemies foreign and or (here's the part you better read slowly) ... Domestic ... Once these thugs turned to burning, killing and looting, they became domestic enemies."