

February 16, 2022

Email to President \_\_\_\_, Virginia

Regarding strategic planning for \_\_\_\_, I have this thought. Please do not fall in line with the current and dominant sentiment in America today. Political correctness (to put it in very mild terms) has begun to display its hateful ends in our current government. Men are now women, women are now men, some are now some other concoction, none of which is scientific, not to mention Biblical. Racial discrimination has reached new depths and heights with the onset of so called "Critical Race Theory" being taught in many of our schools across the country. We can't yet know the extent of damage these ideologues will perpetrate on generations unborn.

\_\_\_\_ has a rich and deeply meaningful heritage to share in America. My suggestion is to keep that heritage in focus, always. It is not black people or white people who created, lived, died, worked at \_\_\_\_\_. It is people, humans, complete with all human frailties and faults. The fact that some of these stand out as our Country was born and grew through the years is what is important. The foundation. The continuity. The seriousness of it all. The distress that occurs when humans no longer believe in the Almighty God and Father of us all, whether or not some know, believe, understand anything about the birth and life and death of Jesus the Christ, is now clearly visible in our country. The attempt to force acceptance and belief of the untruths now being propounded by too many leads to destruction.

When we accepted the invitation to join the \_\_\_\_ family, it was after much soul searching and discussion between us. Robert E. Lee was, of course, at the center of these deliberations. We had the chance to visit Appomattox. We learned of the earth-shaking events that happened the day the two Generals met, face to face. We felt a tiny hint of the weight of the situation at that meeting. Go home. Take your horses. Leave your guns. Prepare your fields to feed your people.

Great and flawed humans have inhabited the world in all human history. Somehow, those who come to \_\_\_\_ to serve and preserve its history know this deeply. Capture those thoughts and ideas of how to proceed into the future. These women know things. They can trust in themselves and their instincts. I'm not sure they need "professionals" to guide their thoughts or their work. They've all been through such planning exercises, I'm sure. They love \_\_\_\_ and the camaraderie around the circle. They understand the privilege of being in the circle and the weight of taking good decisions for the wellbeing of \_\_\_\_\_. The contemporary idea of "social justice" has no place among us. That is a phony justice, not the justice taught us by the Creator. It divides, destroys, undermines. It cannot and will not last, and leaves chaos in its wake.

How appropriate it is to begin each meeting of the Circle with the words of our dear General's favorite hymn.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in His excellent word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, I will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not over flow.  
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not harm thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no never forsake.

These are the words to inspire and motivate! Think of what they meant to General Lee. Think of what his dear ancestors laid down for our magnificent country – their personal honor, yea, their lives! They did not have professionals to guide. They had themselves, their personal integrity, their honor, their brains, their God.

This is the duty shared by these terrific women of \_\_\_!

Trust the women of \_\_\_, their faith, their belief, their dedication to fulfill the duty they have accepted to guide \_\_\_ into the future.

With all good wishes to you and each one of the staff and Directors, and with a profound sense of honor at being an honorary Director,

Janie Kirk  
West Virginia