

## **ELDER STATEMENT**

**The following statement was adopted by the Session of MPCC April 19, 2004**

### **QUESTION.**

Why don't we have an American flag in the worship center?

### **ANSWER:**

We are thankful that we live in a country with the freedom to worship God as His Word requires and as our Spirit-informed conscience directs. Yet Hebrews 11 teaches that we are "aliens and strangers on earth. . . looking for a better country," and that as such God is "not ashamed to be called our God, for he has prepared a city for us" (Heb. 11:13-16). As citizens of Heaven, we are God's ambassadors here on earth. We are called to reach beyond national boundaries, as ambassadors of God (2 Corinthians 5).

The main issue repeatedly before the church session is, "How can we most effectively point people to Christ?" Placing the flag of the United States or any other nation at the front of our worship area can, in fact, be a barrier to Christ to visitors from other countries who need to understand that Christianity is not an American religion. It can also be a snare to us American Christians ourselves, tempting us to identify Christianity with our nation in ways that can diminish both our faith and our responsibilities to bear witness to the claims of Christ in our society.

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