

Worship and Honor

In the next couple of weeks the Elders will seek the opinion of the entire congregation by circulating a questionnaire soliciting input concerning displaying the American and Christian flags in the sanctuary. The deacons discussed this issue in their April and May meetings and it has been decided that further input from the entire congregation would be appropriate.

Some members feel very strongly that the American flag should be displayed permanently in the sanctuary along with the Christian flag and not just in the entrance into the sanctuary from the Gathering Area **which is presently the case**. The feeling here is that failure to display the American flag in the sanctuary fails to show **honor** and even shows disrespect to our country and to the veterans within our congregation. Others believe that placing the American flag along with the Christian flag in the sanctuary on a permanent basis can be confused with **worship**.

We believe that all the members of Viewmont Baptist Church are committed to worshipping only God and are also committed to honoring and serving our country. The discussion then is about how we may properly and clearly affirm both of these convictions.

The questionnaire will contain the following options:

1. ___ I believe that the American flag and the Christian flag should be displayed in the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Center during every Sunday morning worship service. My reasons are:

2. ___ I believe that the American flag and the Christian flag should be displayed in the Gathering Area at all times (as is presently the case) and introduced into the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Center during Sunday morning worship only on special occasions for example July 4th, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc. My reasons are:

3. ___ I believe that the American flag and the Christian flag should be displayed in the Gathering Area at all times but never introduced into the Sanctuary or the Fellowship Center during a regular worship service. My reasons are:

4. ___ Other as described;

This questionnaire will not be treated as a formal vote but will inform both the congregation and the Elders in the formation of a motion that will be presented to the congregation at a regular business meeting. At that time, according to our rules (Robert's Rules of Order) there will be opportunity to (1) approve the motion, (2) vote to amend any motion introduced or (3) vote to introduce a substitute motion according to the will of the congregation.

Finally, we believe that all discussion in our church should be conducted in a spirit of love with the prayer that in this or in any other discussion we will be supportive of one another and of our community. Let us pray that we will all grow spiritually as individuals and as a body of Christ in this place.