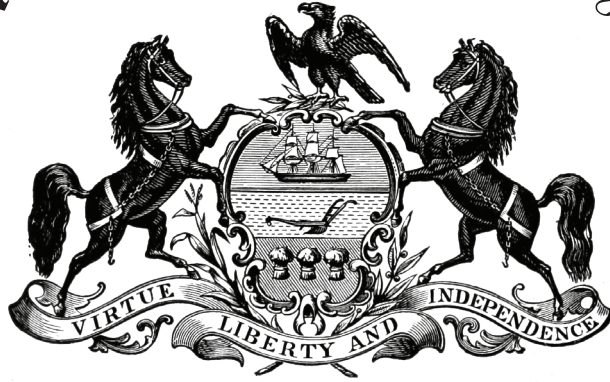


# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## Penn Proclamation for Peace and Unity

*Whereas, William Penn received the Charter for land that would be named, "Pennsylvania" from King Charles II on March 4, 1681; and*

*Whereas, through great personal persecution and sacrifice, William Penn sought to establish a colony of peace, unity, and prosperity; and*

*Whereas, William Penn, being of strong moral convictions and keen intellect set forth ideas which would not only form the foundation for the United States government, but also impact the entire world; and*

*Whereas, Thomas Jefferson said of him, "William Penn was the greatest lawgiver the world has produced, being the first, in ancient or modern times who has laid the foundation of government in the pure and unadulterated principles of peace, reason, and right;" and*

*Whereas, the Harrisburg Capitol Rotunda perpetually proclaims the vision of William Penn with his words encircled in mosaic tile inside its capitol dome, "There may be room there for such a Holy Experiment, for the nations want a precedent and my God will make it the Seed of a Nation, that an example may be set up to the nations, that we may do the thing that is truly wise and just;" and*

*Whereas, among his many notable contributions, perhaps the foremost is William Penn's establishment of the principle of religious liberty; and*

*Whereas, William Penn, from his personal experience of being arrested and imprisoned by government officials for his faith, recognized the need for protection of a person's conscience, and religious liberties; and*

*Whereas, through being unjustly charged with a crime by the magistrates, who threatened the jury to produce a guilty verdict, William Penn and William Mead were found nonetheless not guilty. This process repeated itself a second time with the brave members of the jury rendering another not guilty verdict. The Penn-Mead Trial resulted in a landmark case that established the principle of the independence of the jury - a principle that stands as a bedrock principle of our laws; and*

*Whereas, in light of his personal experiences and desire to provide a place where liberty of conscience and liberty of religious convictions was recognized and protected, William Penn set forth in his "Charter of Privileges" in 1701 the following fundamental principle, "I do hereby grant and declare, that no person or persons, inhabiting in this Province of territories, who shall confess and acknowledge one almighty God, the Creator, upholder, and Ruler of the world; and profess him or themselves obliged to live quietly under the civil government, shall be in any case molested, or prejudiced in his or their Person or Estate, because of their conscientious Persuasion or Practice, nor be compelled to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place, or ministry, contrary to his or their mind, or to do or suffer any other Act or Thing, contrary to their religious persuasion;" and*

*Whereas, William Penn experienced first-hand the injustices that accompany the form of government that held the "divine right of kings", and sought to establish a representative form of government that rejected laws forced upon people without their representation, their consent and against their will, and emphasized self-government and a government of the people; and*

*Whereas, William Penn's ideas inspired the United States Founding Fathers and his vision lives on in the Constitutions and laws of many states, and in America's most important document, the United States Constitution; and*

*Whereas, William Penn warned, "If thou wouldst rule well, thou must rule for God, and to do that, thou must be ruled by Him." "Men must be governed by God or they will be ruled by Tyrants"; and*

*Whereas, Penn believed that religious tolerance, or "liberty of conscience" would create stronger governments and wealthier societies; and*

*Whereas, Penn believed that "NO People can be truly happy if abridged of the freedom of their Consciences" and attracted to his colony those who had been persecuted from a dozen different lands, all of whom had suffered because of restrictions on their religious beliefs; and*

Whereas, Penn envisioned a more inclusive colony inextricably tied to his desire to create a society where people of differing faiths would not only enjoy the freedom to worship as they wished, but to participate actively in a government that guaranteed that right; and

Whereas, Penn believed that "Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined, too. Let men be good and the government cannot be bad. If government becomes ill, good men will cure it." This positive view of believers in God formed the structure of Penn's first frame of government; and

Whereas, settlers of all faiths dwelled together peaceably in Penn's colony but only those of moral and virtuous reputation could hold political office to ensure good governance; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania, from the beginning and by Penn's design, was a complex society of people of different ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds dwelling peaceably. This model of diversity became the basis for the American "melting pot"; and

Whereas, the principle of brotherly love was at the heart of Penn's "Holy Experiment". He was determined to treat the First Nations People as friends, who were entitled to love and respect, recognizing their right as legal owners of the land granted to him; and

Whereas, during Penn's time, older forms of government, such as the "divine right of kings" were slowly giving way to a belief that stressed individual rights. In 1681, Penn crafted a Representative government for Pennsylvania based on these principles. He rejected models of government that forced laws on citizens against their will. Penn emphasized self-government for the people; and

Whereas, Penn declared, "Peace can only be secured by justice; never by force of arms;" and

Whereas, Penn declared, "True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it".

### **Therefore, Be It Resolved**

That The Preamble to the Pennsylvania Constitution is a model for the United States and the Nations: "We, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution;" and

That Penn's first frame of successful government is of the people who shall choose out of themselves persons known for their wisdom, virtue and ability, who shall meet, always be called, and act as, the government; and

That every government, every religious community, and every political and civil society organization in the world should strive toward the goal of achieving freedom of religion and conscience, for everyone, everywhere – protected in law and valued by culture; and

That peace treaties between nations should revisit Penn's model with the first nations people that "We meet on the broad pathway of good faith and good-will, no advantage shall be taken on either side, but all shall be openness and love;" and

That **"We Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof"** as embossed on the Liberty Bell commissioned to commemorate the golden anniversary of Penn's Charter.



Signed,

Members of The Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives and "We The People"

All quotes are direct quotes of William Penn in his book "No Cross No Crown", his First Frame of Government and his Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges.