

## **Christians should protect minorities**

The lawsuit against the Greece Town Board will without a doubt raise outrage from the Christian community. But before we allow that outrage to reach its crescendo, let us think about what it might be like to be in the minority. There was a time in the history of the United States when Baptists were a religious minority. Not only were we a religious minority, we were a persecuted minority.

This memory is what causes many Baptists to speak out when the freedoms and rights of religious minorities are threatened. Sectarian prayers do exclude, and to unabashedly continue this practice is a violation of both the U.S. Constitution and the teachings of our faith that encourage us to not act in ways that cause offense or cause others to fall.

It could only be stubbornness or the intentional will to discriminate that motivates the Greece Town Board to continue with this practice of sectarian prayer in light of their refusal to change their policy when given the opportunity.

**REV. ALAN G. NEWTON**  
BRIGHTON

*The writer is executive minister, American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region of New York State.*