

From:

To:

Date: 8/30/2016 3:28:14 PM

Subject:

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Below you can find a statement from Governor Haley:

What happened in Charleston shed a different light on an issue our state had long struggled with.

What we saw in the extraordinary reaction to Charleston was people of all races coming together. We didn't have riots, we had vigils. We didn't have violence, we had hugs.

The Statehouse belongs to all people, and it needed to be welcoming to all people. That was not possible with that flag flying.

We learned love from the Emanuel Nine, who took in someone that fateful night who didn't look like them, didn't sound like them, didn't act like them, and they pulled up a chair and prayed with him. For an hour.

We learned grace from their families, who incredibly, stood in front of the murderer just two days after this tragedy and offered him their forgiveness.

We learned compassion from the people of South Carolina, who wrapped their arms around those families, that community, and each other in a way we've never seen before.

When the flag came down South Carolina moved forward.