



# Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr. – Interim Pastor

110 Calhoun Street – Charleston, SC 29401 • 843.722.2561 – [www.emanuelamechurch.org](http://www.emanuelamechurch.org)

December 24, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On June 17, 2015 nine murders occurred at *Mother Emanuel* in Charleston. Unfortunately, that one horrific incident will forever be part of the history of the state of South Carolina. On behalf of Bishop Richard F. Norris, presiding prelate of the 7<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, officers and members of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, I would like to thank you for your tremendous leadership immediately following the incident – and since that time.

The many acts of kindness shown by you, to include your attendance at all of the funerals of the victims – and reaching out to the families of the *Mother Emanuel 9* (by phone and correspondence), the presentation of the “ceremonial” pen and state flag to the families are just a few of the ways you have shown your benevolence for family members of the victims and the survivors.

Your tremendous leadership role in the removal of the Confederate battle flag took immense fortitude – and we thank you for that, too. As we enter the holiday season, we want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership under such extreme circumstances.

I hope you will continue to keep all of our members (including the families of the *Mother Emanuel 9* victims and survivors) in your heart and prayers – as we continue to deal with the horrific tragedy. With the encouragement of friends from all over the world like you, we will get through this ordeal.

May you and the citizens of South Carolina continue to be richly blessed. We, at *Mother Emanuel*, are grateful for the spirit of love, faith and goodwill in which everyone responded.

Yours in faith and hope,

Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr.

Presiding Elder, Edisto District – and Interim Pastor, Emanuel A.M.E. Church