

# MANNING BAPTIST CHURCH

Physical Address: 308 East Calhoun Street / Dillon, South Carolina 29536

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September 25, 2014

Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The Manning Baptist Church Health Ministry, along with a number of Dillon, South Carolina area partners, including the community advisory board, is organizing the "Hope for a Healthier Nation Health Disparities Conference and Legacy of Leadership Awards Dinner," at Manning Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on February 28, at 1:00 p.m. The conference is a one-day event which will focus on health disparities.

We would be honored to have you do a ten-minute presentation for the health disparities dinner at 2:00 p.m. Please send a letter of acceptance to speak along with the topic of your presentation by November 15, 2014. I would also like to invite members of your team to make presentations at the conference on healthcare reform and how this law contributes to the elimination of health disparities. I would also need a letter of acceptance and topics of their presentations by November 15, 2014.

The conference will focus on contemporary issues in the policy and science of eliminating health disparities especially among communities that disproportionately experience health disparities. Specifically, the goals for the Conference are to:

- Provide an open discussion of effective evidence-based research methods that contribute to eliminating health disparities.
- Discuss heart disease, stroke, obesity and diabetes risk and prevention and effective evidence-based research methodologies useful in eliminating health disparities.
- Enhance student's interest in health disparities issues and knowledge and awareness of evidence-based practice research methods in health disparities research.
- Provide a venue for networking toward the development of collaborative research opportunities in evidence-based health disparities research at the local, national and international level.

As we all know, eliminating health disparities will involve all members of the community including policy makers (local, state and federal) professional organizations, communities, and individuals. There are many major public health problems which predominantly affect people of color and poor communities. We aim to champion evidence-based interventions and strategies to reduce the incidence and prevalence of heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, obesity, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, among others, in minority communities. We look forward to being a part of a nation-wide movement to promote awareness and action that will benefit our community and nation. We hope you will be able to accept our invitation to speak, and amplify our effort.

Sincerely,



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Reverend Rodney McCorkle, M.Div., Senior Pastor

Deacon Chris McCoy, Chairman of Deacons  
Sister Sharon Thompson, Church Secretary  
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