

September 9, 2016

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

**Invitation to Receive Higher Ground Moral Declaration
for South Carolina**

Dear Gov. Haley:

The undersigned leaders of faith communities and community organizations have signed the Higher Ground Moral Declaration, along with over 10,000 faith leaders nation-wide, that outlines a moral agenda for our nation, our states and our communities. A copy of the Declaration is attached.

We believe in a moral agenda that stands against systemic racism, classism, poverty, xenophobia, and any attempt to promote hate towards any members of the human family. We are also calling for higher ground in partisan debate by returning public discourse to our deepest moral and constitutional values.

On Monday, September 12th at 11 a.m. we will be assembling in the lobby of the State House to witness for these values and to claim higher ground for our deepest moral and constitutional values.

Will you stand with us? We invite you to attend and receive the Declaration, and hear powerful testimony from faith leaders and people from all over South Carolina who support this moral agenda.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kylon Middleton
Mount Zion AME Church
Charleston, SC

Rev. Joseph A. Darby
Presiding Elder, The Beaufort District of the AME Church

Rev. Susie B. Smith
United Church of Christ Minister
Southeast Conference
Greenville, SC

Rev. Dr. Steven D. Morgan
Retired United Methodist minister
South Carolina Conference

Rev. Brenda Lynn Kneece
Executive Minister, South Carolina Christian Action Council
Pastor, Belmont Baptist Church, Columbia, SC

Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III
Charity Missionary Baptist Church
North Charleston, SC

Fight for 15, South Carolina

Paul Garbarini
Charleston Showing Up For Racial Justice

Kat Morgan
Allies Take Action, SC

Robert Burgess, Faith Liaison
South Carolina Progressive Network

Rev. Maxine Sumpter, President
South Carolina Christian Action Council

Kerry Taylor, Coordinator
Carolina Alliance for Fair Employment, Charleston Chapter

Rev. Jeremy Rutledge
Circular Congregational Church
Charleston, SC

Fr. Gregory Ned Blevins
Ecumenical and Social Concerns Representative
Antiochian Catholic Church in America
Summerville, South Carolina
(affiliation given for identification purposes only)

Dr. Gere B. Fulton
Retired Professor, Clinical Internal Medicine at the University of South Carolina
President of the Board of Directors, Funeral Consumers Alliance of South Carolina

Dr. Ivory Thigpen, Pastor
Rehoboth Baptist Church
4646 Hard Scrabble Rd.
Columbia, SC 29229

William Epes
Intern Minister
Unitarian Church in Charleston
Charleston, SC
(affiliation for identification purposes only)