

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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)