



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

July 29, 2015

The Reverend Ginger Barfield
4201 North Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29203-5863

Dear Reverend Barfield,

On the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2015, the world witnessed a senseless tragedy at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in our beloved Charleston, South Carolina.

Heartbroken, words fail us as we seek to make sense of this unexpected loss of life at one of our places of worship. We will never understand what motivates anyone to commit such a vile and hateful act, but our hearts and minds remain fixed on the nine families and healing our state. The families' grace and strength set a powerful example for us all, and the response of the people of South Carolina helped us strengthen our love for each other.

Even in the midst of our grief, South Carolina set about the process of healing by hugging our neighbors, holding vigils, honoring those we lost, and falling to our knees in prayer. We will continue to come together as a state, as a unified people, and never forget those we lost.

Michael, Rena, Nalin, and I join countless others all over the country in praying for strength during this time of healing and offering our condolences and support to the families affected. God bless.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nikki Haley".

Nikki R. Haley

NRH/ahp

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hank Jones".