



CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

Date

Dear [Nominee]:

It is now apparent that you will stand as the [Republican/Democratic] Party's candidate for election to the office of President of the United States. The calling to public service is a sacred vocation, and we hold both you and [other nominee] in our prayers. We are leaders of Christian communions, organizations and schools who care deeply about hunger and poverty, and we are praying for a president who shares that concern. We write to request a meeting with you to discuss your plans for offering help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.

Our churches and organizations are deeply engaged with many of God's children who work hard every day, but nonetheless struggle to make ends meet. Our own experience of God's mercy and compassion in Jesus Christ moves us to engage in God's work of overcoming human misery.

We pray that, as you seek the office of president, the plight of hungry and poor people – around the world and in our own nation – has a strong claim on your attention. And we hope that you will share our vision of a world without hunger and poverty. We believe God's promise to guide and strengthen those who seek to "satisfy the needs of the afflicted" (Isaiah 58:10-11), and we trust that this promise extends to you.

Last September, the nations of the world committed themselves to Sustainable Development Goals that focus on ending poverty and hunger by 2030. Many of us joined Pope Francis in welcoming that commitment and praying for divine blessing on these efforts.

Progress against hunger and poverty will require action by all sectors of society and by all the nations of the world. Yet a shift in U.S. national priorities is an essential next step. People of goodwill can disagree about policy strategies, but little progress will be made unless our next president takes a strong leadership role in making that progress a priority.

We request an opportunity for a group of us to meet, talk, and pray with you as you pursue our nation's highest office. We understand there are many demands on your time, but this is a conversation that you need to have. We will make every effort to accommodate your schedule, but we suggest that meeting in Dayton around the first presidential debate might be ideal.

Please let us know with whom we should talk to make arrangements for a meeting. Your campaign can expect to hear from Rev. Gary Cook soon, or your staff can contact him by email or at ###-###-####.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our country. We will keep you in our prayers in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eddy Alemán, Director of Strategic Leadership Development & Hispanic Ministries, Reformed Church in America

Dr. Paul Alexander, President, Evangelicals for Social Action

Leith Anderson, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Marv Baldwin, Executive Director, Foods Resource Bank

Stephan Bauman, President, World Relief

A.D. Beacham, Jr., Presiding Bishop, International Pentecostal Holiness Church

David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World

Carol Bremer-Bennett, Executive Director, World Renew

Rev. Dr. Ken Brooker Langston, Executive Director, Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ)

Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Tony Campolo, Co-Founder, Red Letter Christians

Galen Carey, Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Evangelicals

John L. Carr, Director, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Rev. Hector Carrasquillo, Latino Ministries Director, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dr. Iva E. Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference

Rev. Dr. Fernando Cascante-Gomez, Executive Director, Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH)

Noel Castellanos, CEO & President, Christian Community Development Association

Shane Claiborne, Convener, Red Letter Christians

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Thomas R. De Vries, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Rev. Dr. Pat Donahoo, Executive Director, Disciples Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

Daniel J. Earheart-Brown, President and Professor of Theology, Memphis Theological Seminary

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Gary L. Edmonds, President/CEO, Food for the Hungry

Bishop Michael A. Frencher, Sr., A.M.E. Zion Church

Meagan S. Gillan, Director, Women Ministries, Evangelical Covenant Church

Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus, Reformed Church in America

David Greenhaw, President, Eden Theological Seminary

Charlotte Haberaecker, President and CEO, Lutheran Services in America

Ambassador Tony Hall, Executive Director Emeritus, Alliance to End Hunger

Rev. Sékinah Hamlin, Director, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative

Herman Harmelink, III, Ecumenical Officer, International Council of Community Churches

Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr., President, American Baptist College

Richard B. Hays, George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament, Duke University Divinity School

The Rev. Mitch Hescoc, President/C.E.O., The Evangelical Environmental Network

Virginia Holmstrom, Executive Director, American Baptist Women's Ministries, American Baptist Churches, USA

Dr. Shirley Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Joel Hunter, Senior Pastor, Northland: A Church Distributed

Hyepin Im, President and CEO, Korean Churches for Community Development

Commissioner David E. Jeffrey, National Commander, The Salvation Army

Sr. Carol Keehan, SC, President and CEO, Catholic Health Association

Bishop David Kendall, Bishop , Free Methodist Church USA

The Very Reverend Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, Orthodox Church in America

Mark Labberton, President, Fuller Theological Seminary

Marilyn Lariviere, National President, Church Women United, Inc.

Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee U.S.A. Network

Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

John Lyon, President and CEO, World Hope International

Jim Lyon, General Director, Church of God Ministries for the United States and Canada

Bishop Denis Madden, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Baltimore

Carlos Malavé, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together in the USA

Sister Donna Markham, O.P., PhD, President & CEO, Catholic Charities USA

Reverend Dr. David F. McAllister-Wilson, President, Wesley Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Walter McCray, President, National Black Evangelical Association

Reverend John McCullough, President and CEO, Church World Service

Dale E. Minnich, Interim General Secretary, Church of the Brethren

Bishop Darin Moore, AME Zion Church

Rich Nathan, Senior Pastor, Vineyard Columbus

Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rev. Rubén N. Ortiz, Latino Network Leader, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Robert Parham, Executive Director, Baptist Center for Ethics

Richard E. Pates, Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Rev. Dr. James Perkins, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention

Roy L. Peterson, President & CEO, American Bible Society

Soong-Chan Rah, Milton B. Engebretson Associate Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, North Park Theological Seminary

Diane Randall, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Amy Reumann, Director of Advocacy, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jonathan Reyes, Executive Director, Justice, Peace, and Human Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference

Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Bishop Monroe Saunders, Presiding Bishop, United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)

Michael G. Scales, President, Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary

Patricia Shelly, Moderator, Mennonite Church USA

Dr. Ronald J. Sider, Senior Distinguished Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry, and Public Policy, Palmer Seminary at Eastern University

Art Simon, President Emeritus, Bread for the World

Richard Stearns, President, World Vision United States

Rev. Ervin R. Stutzman, Executive Director, Mennonite Church USA

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, President of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns, United Methodist Church

Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D., President, Whitworth University

Father Kenneth Taylor, President, National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., President, National Baptist Church of America, Inc.

Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Facilitator, National African American Clergy Network

Jim Winkler, President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo, President and CEO, Catholic Relief Services

Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, Executive Director Emeritus, American Baptist Home Mission Societies