



CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

April 28, 2023

Dear [Presidential Candidate]:

Thank you for your willingness to stand for election to the office of president of the United States. The calling to public service is a sacred vocation. We hold you, and all candidates for nomination and election, in our prayers.

As national leaders from all the major branches of Christianity, we care deeply about many issues facing our country, but ending hunger and poverty is a top priority of our work together. We are alarmed by the economic and racial divisions in our country and welcome ways that you might bring our country together. We are praying for a president who will make ending hunger and poverty a top priority of his or her administration. Are you that leader?

We are making a simple request of each candidate:

Please produce a one-to-three-minute video telling the American people what you would do as president to offer help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world. In addition, we are willing to direct attention to sections of your campaign website that substantively address hunger and poverty issues.

It is our intention to distribute candidates' videos broadly among our churches, networks, and to the public. In past presidential elections, general-election candidates from both parties made statements, and nearly all the primary-election candidates gave us videos. We secured millions of media impressions about the videos and urged the tens of millions of people in our churches and networks to watch them. We have been encouraged that poverty has become a more prominent topic of discussion among presidential candidates in recent years.

The Circle of Protection will distribute your videos without comment and will not endorse any candidate. Our goal is simply to make ending hunger and poverty part of our nation's election dialogue. Our own opinions on solutions vary, so we will welcome both conservative and liberal approaches to alleviating hunger and poverty. Be aware, however, that a failure to provide a response to this request will be interpreted as a lack of concern on your part.

God told Samuel, as he was choosing a national leader from among Jesse's offspring, to look at their hearts (1 Samuel 16). We will be calling on people of faith to examine presidential candidates to see if they have a heart for poor and hungry people. We want to know how each candidate proposes to fulfil the mandate to those who govern to "give deliverance to the needy" (Psalm 72).

Your campaign may discuss this invitation with the Rev. Gary Cook by email at gcook@circleofprotection.us.

Thank you again for your public service. May God bless and guide you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Rev. Abner Adorno, Superintendent, Florida Multicultural District Assemblies of God

Rev. Eddy Alemán, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Rev. Enid Almanzar, Chairwoman, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Rev. Manuel A. Alvarez, Superintendent Spanish Eastern District AG, Executive Presbyter, Assemblies of God USA

John Ashmen, President and CEO, CityGate Network

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate, Armenian Church of America

Rev. Dr. David Beckmann, Dean's Advisor for Political and Economic Justice, Virginia Theological Seminary; Coordinator, Circle of Protection

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, President of Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church

Gary Blackard, President and CEO, Adult & Teen Challenge

Carlos Campo, Ph.D., President, Ashland University and Theological Seminary

John Carr, Founder, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Rev. Barbara Carter, Community of Christ

Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World

Bishop Timothy J. Clarke, Senior Pastor, First Church of God, Columbus, Ohio

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

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

Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Michele Dunne OFS, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Carlos Duran, President, National Hispanic Pastors Alliance

Bishop Sally Dyck, Ecumenical Officer of The United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Rock Fremont, VP Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, International Council of Community Churches

Rev. Dr. Juan A. Garcia, Administrative Bishop of Church of God (Cleveland TN), Northeast Hispanic Region

Myal Greene, President and CEO, World Relief

Shirley Hoogstra, J.D., President, Council of Christian Colleges & Universities

Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Ecumenical Bishop/Program Development Officer, The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr., President, Converge Worldwide and Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Glenarden International.

Protodeacon Sergei Kapral, Orthodox Church in America

Rev. Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals

George Kiraz, Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch, Archdiocese for the Eastern United States

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Ecumenical officer, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Rev. Carlos Malavé, President, Latino Christian National Network

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Interim General Secretary and President, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

Rev. Elizabeth Miller, President, Provincial Elders Conference, Moravian Church

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Rev. Johnnie Moore, President, The Congress of Christian Leaders

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada

Rev. Ted Penton, SJ, Secretary of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States

Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together

Dr. Tyrone S. Pitts, Progressive National Baptist Convention

Rev. Jeanette Salguero, Executive Vice-President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Bishop A.J. Richardson, Senior Bishop, Tenth Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Samuel Rodriguez, President/CEO, National Hispanic Leadership Conference

Rick Santos, President & CEO, Church World Service

Rich Stearns, President Emeritus, World Vision USA

David Steele, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren

Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada

Rev. Adam Russel Taylor, President, Sojourners

Rev. Phil Tom, Executive Director, International Council of Community Churches

Jim Wallis, Inaugural Chair and Founding Director, Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University

Archbishop John C. Wester, Archbishop of Catholic Archdiocese of Sante Fe

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute

Dr. C. Jeff Woods, General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA

Dr. Pene' Woods, Chief Administrative Officer, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church