

The Alabama Faith Council is rooted in the following set of common beliefs:

- *Every aspect of life is sacred to people of God.*
- *All people are inherently equal in their humanity, worth, and dignity.*
- *Working together we create a safer and stronger community.*
- *Dialogue among member groups is essential to build trust.*
- *Speaking on issues collectively is better than speaking alone.*
- *Communities of faith can make a positive contribution to the common good through compassionate support of and listening to the voices of the poor and vulnerable.*



Alabama Faith Council
c/o Greater Birmingham Ministries
2304 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35234-3111

THE
ALABAMA
FAITH COUNCIL



~ All Are Welcome ~

Bringing Together
Voices And Hands of Faith
To Serve All People
in Alabama

c/o Greater Birmingham Ministries
2304 12th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35234
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Hands of Faith



The Alabama Faith Council seeks to build ecumenical and interfaith relationships in Alabama and to empower people of faith to speak together on issues of mutual concern in our state. The AFC is committed to broaden our understanding of diversity within our communities, while enabling all to explore the fullness of their faith and traditions. It seeks to promote unity, peace, and equality through interfaith cooperation.

In 2002 the heads of three Christian churches issued a “unified call for tax reform” in Alabama. Those leaders saw the need for a statewide faith council and the next year, at the invitation of Henry Parsley, The Episcopal Bishop of Alabama, several leaders met and agreed to create a sustained partnership involving top leaders and lay people from diverse faiths to nurture ecumenical relationships and respond faithfully to social issues of the state.

AFC Membership is open to all faithful people from the many faiths within our state.

The Faith Leadership Council is comprised of appointed or elected regional faith leaders. Current membership represents numerous Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Unitarian Universalist congregations. Deepening the relationship with active members and expanding representation among faith communities from around the state is a primary goal of the council.

The Steering Committee is an Advisory Board designed to: discuss and enhance knowledge on current issues, strategize on ways to keep people of faith informed and empowered, and assist in coordinating with Local and State Affiliates. Steering Committee meetings are open to the public.

Workgroups research and develop resources to create materials to be distributed to faith communities. Workgroups also provide the framework for the Issues Statements which are presented to the Faith Leadership Council for consensus. Current Workgroups:

- Children’s Issues
- Diversity Awareness Issues
- Education Issues
- Environment Issues
- Hate Crimes/Violence
- Health Issues
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Obstacles to Just Government
- Poverty Issues



In June 2005, faith leaders met at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery to discuss forming the AFC.

“Our voices are stronger collectively than in isolation. Coming together as diverse people of faith we can improve the lives of all who live in Alabama while promoting unity and peace.”

The Right Rev. Henry Parsley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

“With interfaith dialogue we can change the world for the better. It promotes understanding which encourages us to recognize and celebrate diversity; and to practice tolerance and acceptance in all aspects of our lives. Interfaith dialogue is a tribute to the spirit of faith.”

Aladin Beshir, Community Outreach Chair
Islamic Center of Huntsville

“Too often, we divide ourselves along religious lines without the cooperation that we need to bear on the pressing issues that we face.”

Rabbi Jonathan Miller, Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham

“Through the AFC’s efforts, people of faith will have a greater awareness, passion and ability to transform structures which inhibit all God’s children from enjoying the blessings of creation and community.”

Rev. Tom Evans, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, Presbyterian Church (USA)