

# The Alabama Faith Council

The Alabama Faith Council (AFC) exists so leaders and members of communities of faith may consult with each other, build ecumenical and interfaith relationships in Alabama, draw on one another's faith and wisdom, empower people of faith to speak individually and together on issues of mutual concern and seek the best actions possible for the people of Alabama, especially those whose needs are the greatest and whose resources in life are the least. The AFC is committed to broadening its understanding of diversity within its communities, while enabling all to explore the fullness of their faith, culture and traditions. It seeks to promote unity, peace and equality through interfaith cooperation that is mutually respectful and just.

We believe:

- Every aspect of life is sacred to people of God.
- All people are thereby inherently equal in their humanity, worth and dignity.
- By working together we create a safe 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.

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

## Who We Are

### *Faith Leader Council*

Composed of clergy representatives from faith communities around the state who support the purpose and principles of the AFC. The primary goal of the council is deepening the relationships formed with active members and expanding representation among faith communities.

### *Current Members*

**A**labama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, **B**irmingham Friends Meeting, **B**irmingham Islamic Society, **C**hristian Church (Disciples of Christ), Alabama & Northwest Florida Region, **C**hristian Methodist Episcopal Church, Fifth Episcopal District, **C**onservative Judaism, Temple Beth-El, Birmingham, **E**piscopal Church USA, Diocese of Alabama, **E**vangelical Lutheran Church of America, Southeast Synod, **F**ull Gospel Baptist Fellowship of Alabama, **G**reek Orthodox, Holy Trinity/Holy Cross Cathedral, **M**asjidul Qur'an, Birmingham, **R**eform Judaism, Temple Emanu-El, Birmingham, **P**resbyterian Church USA, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, **U**nitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham, **U**nited Church of Christ, Beloved Community Church, Birmingham, **U**nited Methodist Church, North Alabama Conference

### *Steering Committee*

The Steering Committee advises the faith leaders, identifies and research issues, gathers resources and draft position statements for review and approval. Voting membership is limited to representatives appointed by faith leaders, but meetings are open to any interested individual, organization, congregation or faith community. Members work closely with state and local affiliates and resource groups. Subcommittees are called Work Groups and are comprised of steering committee members, affiliates, and resources persons from around the state.

# Work Groups

Work Groups research issues and draft position statements for review by the Steering Committee and approval by the Faith Leadership Council. They also identify educational resources for faith leaders and congregations. Work Groups are made up of clergy and layperson, meetings are open to anyone interest in addressing the issues. Current Work Groups are:

- **CHILDREN AND EDUCATION ISSUES**
  - *Public Education in Alabama*
  - *Pre-K Education in Alabama*
  - *Access to Health Care*
  - *Affordable Day Care*
- **DIVERSITY AWARENESS, HATE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE ISSUES**
  - *Community Building*
  - *Immigration Reform*
  - *Racial and Gender Equality*
  - *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality*
  - *Religious Tolerance*
  - *Appreciation of Cultural Differences*
  - *Separation of Church and State*
  - *Systemic Racism*
  - *Bias Crimes*
  - *Domestic Violence*
  - *Torture and War Crimes*
- **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
  - *Clean Air and Water*
  - *Safe and Sustainable Energy*
  - *Public Transportation*
  - *Environmental Justice*
- **HEALTH ISSUES**
  - *Universal Health Care*
  - *Access to Mental Health Care*
  - *Elder Care/Support*
- **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**
  - *Religious Tolerance*
  - *Community Building*
  - *Ecumenical and Interfaith Worship and Study*

- **OBSTACLES TO JUST GOVERNMENT**
  - *Citizen Involvement/Voter Registration*
  - *Constitution Reform*
  - *Transparency and Ethics*
  - *Death Penalty*
  - *Tax Reform*
  - *Voter Disenfranchisement*
  
- **POVERTY ISSUES**
  - *Living Wage*
  - *Affordable Housing*
  - *Homelessness*
  - *Public Transportation*
  - *Elder Care/Support*
  - *Hunger/Access to Healthy Diet*
  - *Predatory Lending*

*Local and State Affiliates and Resources Groups*

Any local faith community, clergy group, social action committee, class, interfaith group, social service provider or advocacy agency can affiliate with the AFC to advise the Steering Committee on issues of concern, especially in their specific areas of focus and experience.

*Local/State Affiliates and Resource Groups*

<p><b>A</b>+ Education Partnership, <b>A</b>labama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation, <b>A</b>labama Arise, <b>A</b>labama Poverty Project, <b>B</b>eginning Bridges, <b>G</b>reater Birmingham Ministries, <b>H</b>untsville Interfaith Mission Services, <b>I</b>nterfaith Environmental Initiatives of Alabama, <b>L</b>iteracy Council, <b>V</b>oices for Alabama's Children</p>
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# The Alabama Faith Council

## Faith Community Pledge Form

In support of the Alabama Faith Council and its mission of building relationships among people of God by

- broadening understanding and appreciation for the diversity of our State
- enabling all to express the fullness of their faith
- enhancing our knowledge on issues of mutual concern, and
- promoting unity, peace and equality through interfaith cooperation

\_\_\_\_\_ commits \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Faith Community

to the Alabama Faith Council for 2009. This contribution will be paid on or before \_\_\_\_\_.

### Suggested Financial Contribution

Small Congregation.....300 to \$500 and up  
Medium Congregations/Small Judicatory.....\$1,000 to \$1,500 and up  
Large Congregation/Medium Judicatory;;.....2,000 to \$4,000 and up  
Large Judicatory.....\$5,000 and up

### Non-Financial Contribution *(Please indicate areas of interest with an "X")*

Speak on behalf of the AFC to promote the mission with my faith community \_\_\_\_\_

Speak on behalf of the AFC to promote the mission to my community-at-large \_\_\_\_\_

Serve in a leadership role within the AFC \_\_\_\_\_

Participate in interfaith worship/dialogue within my region \_\_\_\_\_

Become a member of a Work Group \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Community \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

# The Alabama Faith Council

## Individual Membership Pledge

In support of the Alabama Faith Council and its mission of

- \* building relationships among people of God to broaden the understanding and appreciation of the diversity within our communities, while enabling all to express the fullness of their faith;
- \* to enhance our knowledge on issues of mutual concern; and
- \* to promote unity, peace and equality through interfaith cooperation.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ commit the following to the Alabama Faith Council for 2009.

## Financial Contribution

\$25   \$50   \$100   \$250    other \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be paid:

- monthly for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- quarterly for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- in one installment.

## Non-Financial Contributions

- \* Create awareness about the AFC's mission by speaking to my clergy, faith community and others in the community-at-large.
- \* Participate in interfaith gatherings/dialogue within my region.
- \* Become an active member of a Work Group
  - Children and Education
  - Diversity Awareness, Hate Crimes and Violence
  - Environment
  - Health Care
  - Interfaith Dialogue
  - Obstacles to Just Government
  - Poverty

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Your Faith Community \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_