



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



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www.mnchurches.org

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Minnesota Council of Churches' Executive Director Recruits Full Spectrum of National Leaders to Call Nation to Prayer

WASHINGTON – The Faith & Politics Institute today announced 18 days of a nationwide “Prayer for the Nation” with national faith leaders, denominational and organizational leaders and all Americans, concerned that excessive political polarization is harming America, **personally pledging to pray daily**, in their own tradition, for civility in the political realm. The prayer commitment is for **Jan. 3, 2013**, the first day of the new Congress, to **Jan. 21, 2013**, the day of the President’s Inauguration.

Rev. Canon Peg Chamberlin, executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, initiated the project and brought it to the Faith and Politics Institute. Chamberlin said that she chose FPI “because they are well-known for their work on both sides of the aisle.”

Diverse faith leaders such as **Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention, Eboo Patel, Rabbi Steve Gutow and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Katharine Jefferts Schori** are making this call. The shared belief that differences must not polarize and common ground is essential drives this endeavor. “I expect there will also be commitment from current and former members of Congress,” says Chamberlin. “I will be in touch with each of Minnesota’s delegation in the days to come seeking their commitment.”

All can sign the pledge at <http://test.fpirsvp.org/galleries/call-for-prayer/> to pray daily and join in a public proclamation and commitment of prayer for the United States.

“Differences of opinion must not continue to polarize” stated **Peg Chamberlin, Immediate Past President of the National Council of Churches and executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches.**

“Where we disagree, we should do so in a spirit of respect and the desire to find solutions that serve the common good. Through daily prayer, we are calling on the ‘better angels of our nature’ needed to sustain our nation and solve problems.”

This effort grew out of the "Better Angels Summit," hosted by The Faith & Politics Institute in June 2012, which brought together faith leaders from across the ideological spectrum to seek common ground and civil discourse. Many of them formed prayer partnerships. **One prayer partnership, between Peg Chamberlin of the Minnesota Council of Churches and Pierre Bynum of the Family Research Council, helped inspire this national call to prayer.**

“We are extremely pleased to facilitate bringing together the whole diversity of our nation’s faith and political leaders and to host a “Call to Prayer” for our nation in a spirit of reconciliation. Our hope is that many more will sign the pledge. As an Institute, we seek to build bridges over those things that polarize, and believe that building bridges to discover our common ground is essential to our future as a healthy democracy,” said **Liz McCloskey, President of The Faith & Politics Institute.**

About Minnesota Council of Churches

The Minnesota Council of Churches’ mission is to manifest unity in the church and to build the common good in the world. The Minnesota Council of Churches programs align with three broad categories: welcoming refugees, mobilizing the faith community to engage in public policy, and strengthening communities through relationships and understanding. For more information, visit www.mnchurches.org

About Faith & Politics Institute

Follow the Faith & Politics Institute at www.faithandpolitics.org, on Twitter at @faithnpolitics, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FaithNPolitics. The Faith & Politics Institute advances reflective leadership among members of Congress and congressional staff to bridge the divides that arise in a thriving democracy.