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September 28, 2017

Dear _____,

On November 4, 2017, thousands of people will be taking to the streets and public squares of this nation to say "No!" to fascism and to demand an end to the Trump/Pence regime. Religious voices and commitment are needed, now more than ever!

November 4 ~ It Begins! This Nightmare Must End: The Trump/Pence Regime Must Go! In The Name of Humanity, We Refuse to Accept a Fascist America.

We will gather in the streets and public squares of cities and towns across this country, at first many thousands declaring that this whole regime is illegitimate and that we will not stop until our single demand is met: This Nightmare Must End: the Trump/Pence Regime Must Go!

Our protest must grow day after day and night after night—thousands becoming hundreds of thousands, and then millions—determined to act to put a stop to the grave danger that the Trump/Pence Regime poses to the world by demanding that this whole regime be removed from power.

We are persuaded that religious communities need to be well represented in the rallies and protests that will begin November 4. To find out more about these rallies or to endorse the call, visit www.refusefascism.org.

In spite of what many on the religious right are claiming, we know that the politics of division, violence and intimidation that are being employed by the Trump/Pence regime do not represent the heart and soul of what our religious traditions teach. Our traditions insist that we are keepers of the vineyard who have a responsibility to care for this world and its inhabitants. Justice is not peripheral to our identity as religious people; it defines the very core of who we are called by our traditions to be.

We are appalled by policies and statements that terrorize immigrants, that objectify and degrade women, that encourage racism and white supremacy, that promote law and order to the detriment of ethnic-minority communities, that stigmatize LGBTQ persons, that attack the freedom of the press, that deny the reality of climate change, that threaten nuclear war, and that trample on all of our basic democratic rights, including false claims of voter fraud for the purpose of depriving thousands of the right to vote.

That is why we are writing to encourage you, the faith leaders and members of religious organizations of this nation, to join as part of the coalition that has decided that this nightmare that is the Trump/Pence Regime must end. We must not keep silent in the face of the atrocities that this regime is already committing and promises to commit in the future.

IMPORTANT: As part of our preparations for November 4, we will be contacting you soon (or feel free to contact us) about Faith Weekends that will be taking place October 13-15, October 20-22, and October 27-29. The events of these weekends will help build for November 4 and be vital in their own right. These Faith Weekends may include the following:

- Larger public ecumenical and inter-religious gatherings, where we model for parishioners and society-at-large the indispensable responsibility that we have to bring our demand that “The Trump/Pence Regime Must Go!” into the public square. These ecumenical gatherings will be timely and spirit-filled; and, they will also be a precursor to November 4. (In Los Angeles, culminating a month of reflections, sermons and gatherings during church services and amongst faith groups, a Sunday, October 29 inter-religious outdoor event is being planned.)
- Reflections and sermons during Church services in the month of October and smaller gatherings of the faith groups themselves that take up the issue of 1) the fascist direction of the U.S. and the serious danger represented by the Trump/ Pence regime, and 2) November 4 being the day when we begin a sustained, public, historic mobilization to demand this regime’s ouster.
- Sharing and discussion of the well-researched 12-page, full-color pamphlet, *7 Indictments: The Crimes Against Humanity of the Trump/Pence Regime*. (Please contact us and we will make arrangements for you to receive copies for your church, synagogue or mosque. You may also review the pamphlet at <https://refusefascism.org/what-the-trump-pence-regime-has-done-and-says-they-will-do/>.)

We hope that you will make specific plans for your own neighborhoods and communities to help this nationwide struggle. In preparation for these Faith Weekends and for November 4, we urge you to:

- Endorse the Call for November 4 ~ This Nightmare Must End: The Trump/Pence Regime Must Go! Engage your communities in focused conversations about the Call for November 4. Preach sermons, hold dialogues and conduct studies.
- Help the members of your community understand just how important November 4 is. Make a 60-90 second video calling the faith community across the nation to action both during the October Faith Weekend, and on November 4. We'll promote your video on social media.

And then mobilize people to get out onto the streets to make this demand known. Change will only come when hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets to demand it. The religious community needs to be involved.

We believe that the best voices of our religious traditions call us to be engaged in the struggle to build a world where all are treated justly, compassionately, and respectfully. Sometimes, this means saying “No!” to the violence, the selfishness, and the hatefulness that all too often dominate our world. We believe that this is one of those times!

November 4 is coming quickly. The time for action is now! This nightmare must end!

*Sincerely ~ **National Faith Task Force for Nov 4 (initial):*** **Rev. Frank Wulf**, Pastor-in-Charge, Echo Park United Methodist Church; **Ernestine Henning**, Supervisor (ret.) AME Church; **Rev. Tom Carey**, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Epiphany; **Isabel Cardenas**, Salvadoran-American activist, co-initiator of Refuse Fascism; **Rev. Frank Alton**, Provost, Cathedral Center of St. Paul; **Ted Jennings**, Professor of Biblical and Constructive Theology at the Chicago Theological Seminary; **Father Bob Bossie, SCJ**; **Rev. Taigen Dan Leighton Ph.D.**, Soto Zen Buddhist priest and Dharma teacher; **Rabbi Michael Davis**; **Fr. Richard Estrada**, Church of the Epiphany, **Cornel West**, **Fr. Luis Barrios**, Holyrood Episcopal Church ~ (affiliations for identification purposes only)