

February 27th, 2015

Charlotte City Council
600 East 4th Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Mayor Clodfelter and Charlotte City Council Members,

We are proud to be religious leaders in a city seeking to protect its citizens by removing discriminatory policies and practices from public places. We are proud and grateful for your support, Mayor Clodfelter, for the Non-Discrimination Ordinances. We understand there is similar support among your colleagues within the Charlotte City Council. We extend our gratitude and pride for your sense of history, integrity, and ethics. We further encourage all Council Members to support these important measures.

We are troubled that equal protections are not afforded to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender members of our faith communities. Furthermore, we believe it is imperative for the soul of our Queen City that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee will be able to track and resolve discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, marital status and gender expression.

We are disheartened to hear the tones of fear and misinformation from a few religious leaders in our community who are speaking against the ordinances. We believe in civil discourse and community dialogue that is grounded in a spirit of mutual regard and love for neighbor. We truly hope the community speakers on March 2nd will reflect these values as the City Council considers these ordinances.

We write to you as clergy in the Charlotte community who voice our unequivocal support of the Non-Discrimination Ordinances. We also write to you as parents, grandparents, elders, neighbors and community members who know that these ordinances will strengthen our community's values, safety and wellbeing.

Thank you for your service and commitment to the city of Charlotte.

We, the clergy of our beloved city,

with faith in our shared future and eyes set on the arc bending toward justice,

Rev. Loris N. Adams

Rev. Joe Aldrich, Myers Park Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Chris Ayers, Pastor, Wedgewood Church

Rev. Michael Baldonado, Campus Minister, Cooperative Ministry Central
Piedmont Community College

Rev. Amantha L. Barbee, Pastor, Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Amy Brooks, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lake Norman

Rev. Dr. Peter Brown, Sr. Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Steven Burleson, Youth Minister, Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Rev. John Cleghorn, Pastor, Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Rev. Robin P. Coira, Executive Minister, Myers Park Baptist Church

Rev. Mary Frances Comer, Affiliated Community Minister, Piedmont Unitarian
Universalist Church

Rev. Martha Dixon Kearse

Rev. Dr. Nancy Ellett Allison, Pastor, Holy Covenant United Church of Christ

Dennis W. Foust, PhD, Senior Minister, St. John's Baptist Church

Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, Associate Rabbi, Temple Beth El, Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. Susan A. Heafner-Heun, Pastor, Inclusion Community UMC

Rev. Debra J. Hopkins, Associate Minister of Sacred Souls Community Church

Rev. Catherine Houchins, Pastor Metropolitan Community Church of Charlotte

Rev. Chris Hughes, Minister of Youth, Myers Park Baptist Church

Russ and Amy Jacks Dean, Park Road Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Nancy Kraft, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Charlotte

Rev. James C. (Jay) Leach, Senior Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte

Reverend Sonja Lee, Pastor, Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte

Reverend Renee' Leboa, Senior Pastor, Spiritual Living Center of Charlotte

The Rev. Dr. Richard Little, Lutheran pastor, Retired

Rev. Justin Martin, Minister of Education and Care, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, Executive Director, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Rev. Barry Metzger, Church Administrator, Myers Park Baptist Church

Reverend Melissa Mummert, Affiliated Community Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte

Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Associate Rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Bishop Tonya M. Rawls, Pastor, Sacred Souls Community Church

Reverend Glencie Rhedrick, Advocate for Justice

The Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., Associate Professor of Bible, Union Presbyterian Seminary; Executive Committee Member, NC NAACP

Rabbi Judith Schindler

Reverend Christy Snow, Pastor Emeritus, Spiritual Living Center of Charlotte

Rev. Robin Tanner, Lead Minister, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church

Rabbi Dr. Barbara Thiede, Temple Or Olam

Rev. Jolin Wilks McElroy, Pastor of First Christian Church

Rev. Deborah C. Warren, President and CEO, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network

Rev. Jason Williams, MeckMin