

REPORT OF ENDORSEMENTS AND STATEMENTS BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY BASED ON ABCUSA POLICY STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

2012

Climate Change

In March 2012 the General Secretary signed on to a “Call for Interfaith Actions on Climate Change”, calling for interfaith actions across the USA during the week of April 21-27 to awaken our nations elected officials, as well as all civic and business leaders and households, to the urgent need for immediate and effective action to address the climate emergency. A series of activities were planned for the week of April 21-27, including an interfaith service and a religious/spiritual procession from the MLK Jr. National Memorial to the White House, interfaith vigils and activities around the country, as well as support for activities at the National Cathedral being organized by the National Religious Coalition on Creative Care and, on the same day, the Earth Day Network’s rally on the National Mall.

Hunger and Malnutrition

In April 2012, the General Secretary signed on to a Christian leader letter, written by Rich Stearns, President of World Vision U.S. to President Obama, addressing hunger and malnutrition. World Vision has been working closely with ONE and other humanitarian and development organizations to encourage President Obama and other G8 leaders to prioritize food and nutrition security at the May 18-19 G8 Summit. The goal is to encourage the G8 nations to re-commit to fulfilling their existing pledges on food security and to pledge support to outcome-based goals of lifting 50 million people out of poverty due to food security investments and preventing 15 million children around the world from being stunted due to malnutrition.

Letter to President Obama and Governor Romney

In June, the General Secretary, along with other leaders from a wide array of Christian churches in America, signed on to a letter to President Obama and Governor Romney, asking each candidate to speak out about how they would provide help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world.

Religious Freedom

In July 2012, the General Secretary signed on to a letter along with other religious, secular, interfaith, advocacy, legal and community organizations to congressional representatives Bachman, Franks, Gohmert, Rooney and Westmoreland. This letter raised a voice of protest against their recent open letters to the inspectors general of the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Defense and Justice, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which called for an investigation into individuals and organizations that they claimed may have ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and questioned the loyalty of faithful American Muslim individuals and organizations based on their religious affiliations and what is at best tenuous evidence of their associations.

Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition - Medicaid Program

On July 31, the General Secretary signed a letter, along with members of the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition (a nonpartisan coalition of more than 25 national faith-based organizations) and other religious and religiously-affiliated organizations, urging state legislators to support the expanded Medicaid program authorized by Public Law 111-148, the Affordable Care Act. The program provides persons with disabilities, who have incomes near the poverty level, with the health and long-term care services they need to live independent, productive lives in their communities.

U.S. Military Assistance to Israel

In September 2012 the General Secretary joined other Christian leaders in signing on to a letter to Members of Congress which urged “an immediate investigation into possible violations by Israel of the US Foreign Assistance Act and the US Arms Export Control Act, which respectively prohibit assistance to any country which engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations and limit the use of US weapons to internal security or legitimate self-defense.” The letter also urged Congress to undertake careful scrutiny to ensure that US aid is not supporting actions by the government of Israel that undermine prospects for peace, urging Congress to hold hearings to examine Israel’s compliance, to establish regular reporting on compliance, and to take steps to withhold US military aid for non-compliance.

Circle of Protection – Care of the poor and vulnerable

In November 2012 the General Secretary signed on to a Circle of Protection letter addressed to President Obama and Members of Congress calling for a “moral budget that protects those who Jesus called “the least of these” by being open to the concerns of constituents when it comes to caring for the poor and vulnerable. The letter calls for effective programs that meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable and help keep others from slipping into poverty.

Congratulatory Letter to President Obama

In November 2012 General Secretary Roy Medley signed on to a letter to President Obama congratulating him on his re-election and pledging, among other things, to “support initiatives to enact just and compassionate policies that will serve the common good, strengthen our commitments to care for each other, and ensure that there is enough for everyone.” The letter went on to assure the President that “...our prayers, and the prayers of people of faith across the country, will be with you and your Administration as you continue the important work of public service on behalf of a more just, peaceful and compassionate world.”

Call to Pray for Congress

In December 2012 the General Secretary, along with other national faith leaders who are concerned that excessive polarization in politics is harming America, pledged to pray daily for political leaders. This initiative was sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute and Auburn Seminary. The prayer commitment was made for Jan. 3, 2013, the first day of the new Congress, to Jan. 21, 2013, the day of the President’s Inauguration. Faith leaders asked all Americans of faith to join in these daily prayers for the new Congress, for the President and Vice-President, Supreme Court Judges and public leaders everywhere. Faith leaders also asked the President and members of Congress to publically pledge to pray for one another. The General Secretary also contributed a written prayer for the website.

Peace in the Middle East

The General Secretary also signed on to a letter written by Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) in December 2012, sent to encourage President Obama to redouble his efforts to broker a negotiated peace in the Middle East during his second term in office.

Gun Control/Strengthened Funding and Access to Mental Health

The General Secretary and other members of the NEC wrote a letter to President Obama and Members of Congress in December 2012 to which several members of the NLC signed on to. The letter stated, “We raise our voices to state that we fully support the common sense effort to ban the sale of semi-automatic/assault weapons. We do not believe that any reasonable argument can be made for the sale of these weapons to the general public. They are designed as weapons of war, not for self-defense or hunting. We join our voices with others in the faith community and those of the law enforcement community and concerned gun owners who have consistently asked these weapons be banned...we further support strengthened funding and access to mental health services which have been severely cut at the federal, state, and local levels. These cuts have left those who are at risk of doing harm to themselves or others without adequate treatment.