



# CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

September 12, 2019

Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your willingness to stand for election to the office of president of the United States. The calling to public service is a sacred vocation. We hold you, and all of the candidates for nomination and election, in our prayers.

As national leaders from all the major branches of Christianity, we care deeply about many issues facing our country, but ending hunger and poverty is a top priority of our work together. We are alarmed by the economic and racial divisions in our country and welcome ways that you might bring our country together. We are praying for a president who will make ending hunger and poverty a top priority of his or her administration. Are you that leader?

We are making a simple request of each candidate:

**Please produce a three-minute video telling the American people what you would do as president to offer help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.**

It is our intention to distribute candidates' videos broadly among our churches and to the public. In the last presidential elections, both general-election candidates made statements, and nearly all the primary-election candidates gave us videos. We secured 85 million media impressions about the videos and urged the tens of millions of people in our churches to watch them.

The Circle of Protection will not publicly evaluate your policy positions or endorse any candidate. Our goal is simply to make ending hunger and poverty part of our nation's election dialogue.

God told Samuel, as he was choosing a national leader from among Jesse's offspring, to look at their hearts (1 Samuel 16). We will be calling on people of faith to examine presidential candidates to see if they have a heart for poor and hungry people. We want to know how each candidate proposes to fulfil the mandate to those who govern to "give deliverance to the needy" (Psalm 72).

Thank you again for your public service. May God bless and guide you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Eddy Alemán**, General Secretary Reformed Church in America  
**Leith Anderson**, President, National Association of Evangelicals  
**John Ashmen**, President, Citygate Network  
**Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore**, President and CEO, Global Alliance Interfaith Networks  
**Rev. William Barber**, President, Repairers of the Breach and Bishop with TFAM  
**James H. Barnes**, President, Bethel University  
**David Beckmann**, President, Bread for the World  
**Gary J. Bekker**, retired minister and agency director, Christian Reformed Church in North America  
**Carol Bremer-Bennett**, Director, World Renew  
**Linda Post Bushkofsky**, Executive Director, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**Tony Campolo**, Founder, Red Letter Christians and Founder, Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education  
**Galen Carey**, Vice President, National Association of Evangelicals  
**Patrick Carolan**, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network  
**John Carr**, Director, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University  
**Dr. Iva Carruthers**, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference  
**Rev. Jose Luis Casel**, Director, Presbyterian World Mission, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Rev. Dr. Fernando Cascante-Gomez**, Executive Director, Association for Hispanic Theological Education  
**Bishop Michael Curry**, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church  
**Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane**, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida  
**Dr. Pat Donahoo**, Disciples Women, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
**The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer**, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ  
**Rev. Elizabeth Eaton**, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
**Art Gay, Minister at Large**, Evangelical Initiatives International  
**Dr. David Greenhaw, President, Eden Theological Seminary**  
**Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM**, President and CEO, Catholic Health Association  
**Herman Harmelink**, Ecumenical Officer, International Council of Community Churches  
**Mitch Hescox**, President, Evangelical Environmental Network  
**Commissioner David Hudson**, National Commander, The Salvation Army  
**Bishop David Kendall**, Bishop, Free Methodist Church USA  
**Jo Ann Lyon**, Ambassador and General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church  
**Rev. Carlos L. Malavè**, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together in the USA  
**Sister Donna Markham, OP, PhD**, President and CEO, Catholic Charities USA  
**Rev. Dr. Walter McCray**, President, National Black Evangelical Association  
**Rev. John L. McCullough**, President and CEO Church World Service  
**Dr. Julius T. Medenblik**, President, Calvin Theological Seminary  
**Rev. Ruben N. Ortiz**, Latino Network Leader, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

**Rev. Dr. Susan D. Parker**, President, Memphis Theological Seminary  
**Diane Randall**, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation  
**R. Mitch Randall**, Executive Director, Baptist Center for Ethics  
**Bishop Lawrence Reddick**, Senior Bishop, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
**Dr. Gabriel Salguero**, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition  
**Michael G. Scales**, President, Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary  
**Dr. Ronald J. Sider**, Senior Distinguished Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry, and Public Policy at Palmer Seminary at Eastern University  
**Art Simon**, President Emeritus, Bread for the World  
**Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer**, General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA  
**Ava Steaffens**, Chief Executive Officer, Christian Community Development Association  
**David A. Steele**, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren  
**Dr. Gregory Sterling**, Dean, Yale University Divinity School  
**JP Sundararajan**, Director of Global Mission, Reformed Church in America  
**Rev. Lori Tapia**, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
**Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis**, Director, Kairos Center and Co-Chair Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival  
**Steven Timmermans**, Executive Director, The Christian Reformed Church in North America  
**Al Tizon**, Executive Minister of Serve Globally, Evangelical Covenant Church  
**Nikki Toyama-Szeto**, Executive Director, Evangelicals for Social Action  
**Rev. Jim Wallis**, President and Founder, Sojourners  
**Hope Morgan Ward**, Bishop, North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church  
**Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner**, Co-Chair, National African American Clergy Network  
**Jim Winkler**, President and General Secretary, National Council of Churches