January 10, 2017

President-elect Donald Trump
Trump Tower
735 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

cc: Members of the 115th Congress

Dear President-elect Trump,

As representatives of many different faith communities, we are writing to convey our hope and prayers that you will robustly defend the dignity of all people and strive to advance democracy, human rights, and rule of law both here at home and around the world.

We live in an era when fear and anger have eroded the common concern for human life and human dignity. Too often lines are drawn between people of different ethnicities, religions, and cultures, and some use those lines in an attempt to justify killing, torture, and other immoral acts of brutality.

While we represent a diversity of faith traditions, we stand together in a shared belief in the God-given dignity of each person and the conviction that America should reject the forces that divide people and should protect those who are at risk of torture, rape, genocide, and other violations of human dignity. Our faith traditions teach us that standing up for the vulnerable and those in need is at integral to the well-being of our shared community. We believe that our country should champion democracy and rule of law both here and abroad.

As you begin your presidency, we pray that you will stand to protect American values like democracy, freedom of religion, and rule of law, and that you will defend people from torture, genocide, and other assaults on human dignity.

Please know that our prayers are with you. As you shoulder the burdens of the presidency, you can always reach out to any of us for counsel and prayer.

Sincerely,

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
President, The Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner
Director
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed  
National Director of Interfaith & Community Alliances  
Islamic Society of North America

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ

Dr. Susan E. Gillies  
Interim General Secretary  
American Baptist Churches USA

Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins  
General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jim Winkler  
President and General Secretary  
National Council of the Churches

Kavneet Singh  
President  
American Sikh Council (ASC)

Rev. David Steele  
General Secretary  
Church of the Brethren

Colin P. Watson, Sr.  
Director of Ministries and Administration  
Christian Reformed Church in North America

Rev. Peter Morales  
President  
Unitarian Universalist Association

Sr. Simone Campbell  
Executive Director  
NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Rev. Ron Stief  
Executive Director  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Rev. Paula Clayton Dempsey  
Director of Partnership Relations  
Alliance of Baptists

Rabbi Jill Jacobs  
Executive Director  
T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Ervin R. Stutzman  
Executive Director  
Mennonite Church USA

Gerry Lee  
Director  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concern

Patrick Carolan  
Executive Director  
Franciscan Action Network

Sr. Patricia J. Chappell  
Executive Director  
Pax Christi USA

Diane Randall  
Executive Secretary  
Friends Committee on National Legislation

Hon. Thomas H. Andrews  
President & CEO  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee