

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Faiths United to Save Democracy Trains Volunteers to Keep the Peace at the Polls**

- *Multi-state and multi-faith coalition condemns political violence in all its forms*
- *Coalition deploys nonpartisan chaplains and peacekeepers to lend moral support and calm to polling sites*

### **WHAT:**

[Faiths United to Save Democracy \(FUSD\)](#), a multi-faith coalition of faith leaders and voting rights organizations, [trained hundreds of nonpartisan chaplains and peacekeepers](#) who will protect and provide moral support to voters at select polling sites across the country.

In the wake of growing concerns of political violence across the country, the training, held on Monday, July 15 aimed to prepare volunteers to provide a calming and moral presence for vulnerable voters at in-person polling sites.

Those who accept the call to serve will be present at priority polling sites in designated cities in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin during early voting events and election day, November 5.

### **WHY:**

Since the 2020 election, voters have faced increasing barriers to exercising their right to vote. Nearly 400 voter restriction measures in 49 states, from ID laws to limited access to mail voting, have been proposed or passed. These laws erect barriers that disproportionately limit people of color, the elderly and the poor from being able to vote.

Increasingly violent rhetoric and events throughout the 2024 election has given voters credible concern about violence or intimidation at the polls. Trained poll chaplains and peacekeepers will be deployed to cities and polling sites in areas of greatest need in this critical time for the future of our democracy.

### **QUOTES:**

"The need for trained volunteers serving as caring and compassionate Poll Chaplains and Peacekeepers, protecting the sacred freedom to vote of vulnerable citizens, has never been greater. The tragic reality of political violence and increased anti-voting laws making voting harder for the elderly, disabled, language-challenged, the low-income, students and returning citizens, has motivated diverse faith and community leaders nationwide to serve during early voting and on election day," said **Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, FUSD Coordinator and Co-Convener**.

"At the core of our faith traditions is a call to promote peace and protect the dignity of everyone," said **Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, president of Sojourners**. "With the specter of political violence and voter suppression efforts, poll chaplains/peacekeepers will be providing a nonpartisan and moral presence at vulnerable polling

sites in order to deter intimidation and violence and ensure that everyone can exercise their sacred freedom to vote.”

“Political violence has been stoked by divisive rhetoric of candidates and campaigns for many years now. The events over the weekend are the latest tragic example of what that can lead to. As Christians we are not just called to be lovers of peace but to be makers of peace,” said **Rev. Jim Wallis, Archbishop Desmond Tutu Chair in Faith and Justice and Director of the Center on Faith and Justice**. “Long before this latest horrible escalation in violence occurred, Faiths United to Save Democracy has been committed to recruiting, training, and deploying poll chaplains to serve as a moral peaceful presence at at-risk polling stations. This work is now even more imperative at this moment.”

“God intends for all creation to thrive. The current state of politics emphasizes the importance of protecting the vote for all people, especially for people of faith. It is crucial to ensure safe access to the polls in all communities,” said **Rev. Moya Harris, Director of Racial Justice at Sojourners**. “The involvement of poll chaplains and Peacekeepers is essential in actively safeguarding the vote in local communities. This is integral to our call as people of faith – to combat chaos with love and witness.

#### **FURTHER ACTION:**

Those interested in serving as a peacekeeper or a poll chaplain can [RSVP to a future, virtual training](#). Future trainings will be held at the following dates and times:

- Monday, July 22, 7 p.m. ET
- Monday, August 12, 7 p.m. ET
- Monday, August 26, 7 p.m. ET
- Monday, September 9, 7 p.m. ET
- Monday, September 30, 7 p.m. ET

#### **Additional details and contact:**

- **Organization:** [Faiths United to Save Democracy](#) (FUSD)
- **For Interviews:** Contact Byron Kimball, [byron@gomixte.com](mailto:byron@gomixte.com), 619-732-0789 x 297
- **Link to use in your story:**
  - [Poll Chaplain Training Events](#)

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#### **ABOUT FAITHS UNITED TO SAVE DEMOCRACY (FUSD)**

Faiths United to Save Democracy is a nonpartisan, interfaith, multi-racial, and intergenerational voter mobilization and protection group comprised of Christian, Jewish, Muslim leaders. For more information on the campaign, how to sign up to serve as a poll chaplain, or to access information pertaining to non-partisan voter education and protection information, go to [www.turnoutsunday.com](http://www.turnoutsunday.com).