

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

HK on J

My article to you this issue is an appeal and invitation. I am both inviting and asking you to join me this Saturday, 9:30 AM at Shaw University to participate in the *Historic Thousands on Jones Street* (HK on J) gathering. The HK on J is not a march, rally, or a one-time event. In its fourth year, HK on J is a **people's movement**. Sponsored by a coalition of over 80 justice-seeking organizations—such as AFL-CIO, Common Cause NC, Democracy NC, El Pueblo, General Baptist State Convention, Muslim-American Society Freedom Foundation, NC Council of Churches, and NC Justice Center—and representing more than one million grass-roots activists, HK on J has one purpose: to promote *The People's Agenda* all across North Carolina. Adopted before the first HK on J gathering, *The People's Agenda: 14 Points*, sets forth a set of values and principles that seeks to promote peace and justice in our state. The 14 points are:

- All Children Need High Quality, Well-Funded, Diverse Schools
- Livable Wages and Support for Low-Income People
- Health Care for All
- Redress Two Ugly Chapters in NC's Racist History
- Expand and Improve Same Day Registration and Public Financing of Elections
- Lift Every Historically Black College and University
- Document and Redress 200 Years of State Discrimination in Hiring and Contracting
- Provide Affordable Housing and Stop Consumer Abuse
- Abolish the Racially-Biased Death Penalty and Mandatory Sentencing Laws; Reform our Prisons.
- Environmental Justice
- Collective Bargaining for Public Employees and Worker Safety
- Protect the Rights of Immigrants from Latin America and Other Nations
- Organize, Strengthen, and Provide Funding for Our Civil Rights Enforcement Agencies and Statutes Now
- Bring Our Troops Home from Iraq Now

As you read over this list, you may find points that you agree with and some that you don't. However, it is my belief that the spirit of this agenda reflects Pullen's own commitment to social justice and the pursuit of God's vision for humanity. As we know from our Pullen experience, we don't all have to be of "one mind" in order to join hands and work for justice in our world. Conversely, it is our willingness to engage in our

differences that often strengthens our work together.

I am continually amazed at how much justice leaders in our city and all across our state look to Pullen for support and encouragement. Historically, our church has been known for its commitment to standing up, speaking out, and working for justice and the constitutional rights of all people. Our unique position in this work is that we engage the issues of justice and equality for all people on the basis of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. We come to this work as a people of faith, informed by the truth that God's love is for all people and that all people are included in God's kingdom. We believe that it is our calling to work for justice while showing compassion and to hold one another accountable while offering grace. As people of faith, we believe that God calls us to love one another without fear or prejudice. As a church, we have made it our mission to live out of these values and principles. Now we are in one of those moments in history where our voice, the Pullen voice, is needed to be heard with strength and clarity. Our continued commitment to the message of God's radical inclusivity, and the moral and ethical principle of *equality and justice for all*, is vital to the work of peace and justice in our city and state.

Our nation was founded on a basic moral principle stating that: "all people are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." The Christian faith, embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus, takes that moral and ethical principle even further. Jesus taught us that when we "do it unto the least of these"—the poor, our children, and the widows among us—we have done it unto Him. When we treat people "less than" because of the color of their skin or where they live or their economic status or what kind of job they labor at or their gender or their sexual orientation, we are rejecting one of the most basic principles of our faith: that every single human being is created in the image of God; and one of the most basic principles on which our nation was founded: that all people are created equal.

We are in a time at Pullen when we are doing some "soul searching" about who we want to be. What has been clear for over 125 years is that Pullen Memorial Baptist Church is a community committed and dedicated to the work of peace and justice. As we live into these days and into our future, opportunities like HK on J call for our support and participation. I plan to be there. It is my hope to see the Pullen community well represented.

—Nancy

For more information about HK on J:
www.HKonJ.com