

January 31, 2022

Dear Governor Glenn Youngkin,

As people of faith and moral conscience, we are dedicated to being and building a beloved community in Virginia and beyond. Our faith calls us to take action and advance justice by addressing issues that threaten the ideals of democracy, public safety, and human dignity. As parents, caregivers, and family members, we call on you to protect our children by understanding the moral implications of your recent executive orders which cause harm to the communities we serve.

Just hours before signing Executive Order Two to “empower” parents to make decisions for their children by lifting mask mandates in public schools, you honored frontline workers and emergency responders at your Inauguration ceremony. However, this executive order undermines the efforts and sacrifices of these frontline workers who you proclaim to support. It has also caused division leading to threats of violence against school districts across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

There are over 1 million students enrolled in Virginia public schools, and every child has different needs and medical concerns. Your executive order to rescind mask mandates in public school districts yields a greater threat to our children than the perceived one of them wearing masks. This impacts their families, classmates, teachers, administrators, and those who maintain the facilities.

Lifting the mandate ensures that students who might otherwise have been spared from contracting COVID-19 are now vulnerable to it, and will subsequently transmit it to their families and communities. Thus the cycle of the disease is extended again. In the state of Virginia, nearly 16,000 people have died as a result of the virus; and, according to the Virginia Department of Health 310,326 cases have been associated with children ages 0-19 years of age.

Throughout your campaign and your early days in office, you have spoken frequently about your faith. As a person of faith, we ask you to make the moral choice – not the political one – and to prioritize the safety and wellness of all Virginians, especially our vulnerable children and educators.

Today, we ask that you fulfill your moral obligation and love your neighbors by creating policies that protect your constituents; in addition to following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention along with the Virginia Department of Health. This is a responsible choice in order to protect the sacredness of every human being during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Faith Leaders

Rev. Ray Greene, Jr.	The Freedom BLOC	Akron, OH
Rev. Barbara Breland	Pastor	Alexandria, VA
Rev. Juli Wilson-Black	Fairlington Presbyterian Church	Alexandria, VA
Dr. Brian K. Brown	Woodlawn-Faith U.M.C.	Alexandria, VA
The Rev Dr Noelle York-Simmons	Historic Christ Church	Alexandria, VA
The Rev. David M. Crosby	A priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia	Alexandria, VA
Rev. Monica A. Teal	Jerusalem Baptist Church	Alexandria, VA
Ariel Rudy	Christ Episcopal Church	Alexandria, VA
The Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	Arlington, VA
Reverend Pete Nunnally	Episcopal Church	Arlington, VA
NAACP Arlington Branch #7047	NAACP	Arlington, VA
Julius D. Spain, Sr. E9, USMC, Retired	NAACP	Arlington, VA
Anita S. Green	N/A	Arlington, VA
David M.Green, Jr.	N/A	Arlington, VA
Rev. Dr. Carol Green-Freeman	Wilson Boulevard Christian Church	Arlington, VA
The Reverend Crystal J Hardin	The Episcopal Church	Arlington, VA
Rev. Samuel L. Feemster	Mt. Vernon Baptist Church	Arlington, VA
Dr. Sabrina E. Dent, DMin	Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation	Arlington, VA
Joanie Hunn	National Council of Jewish Women, Virginia	Ashburn, VA
Rev. Dr. Lawrence W. Buxton	United Methodist Church	Ashburn, VA
Dr. John W. Kinney	Virginia Union University	Ashland, VA
Rev. David Key	Lake Oconee Community Church	Athens, GA
Rev. Dr. Maria Harris	Mt. Sinai Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
Saundra Taylor	St. Paul Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
Nichele Cosby	Mt. Sinai Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
Alan Cosby	Grandfather	Aylett, VA
Corey Cosby	Ashland Christian Center	Aylett, VA
Mrs. Vernell Hall	Mount Sinai Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
James Gresham Sr.	Mt. Sinai Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
Jennifer Dandridge	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Aylett, VA
Audrey Cosby	Grandma	Aylett, VA
Rev. Chanson A. Byrd, M.Div.	VUU	Baltimore, MD
Alfred Rose	First Presbyterian Church	Birmingham, VA
Rev. Dr. Michelle Hatcher	Anointed New Life Baptist Church	Blue Springs, MO
Elder Dehlia Mason	ADDERETH Church	Brandywine, MD

Dr Jan Rivero	United Methodist	Charlottesville, VA
Rev. Robert D. Lewis	Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church	Charlottesville, VA
Rev. Dr. Karla Kincannon	United Methodist Church	Charlottesville, VA
Reverend Dr. Jim Noseworthy	United Methodist Clergy	Charlottesville, VA
Rev. H. Patrick Cason	Bethany Baptist Church	Chesapeake VA
Min. Lawrence Holloway	New Hope Church	Chesapeake, VA
Rev. Herbert J Wood	Universal Life Church	Chesapeake, VA
Rev. Dr. A. Jerome Danage Sr	Senior Pastor Providence United Church Of Christ	Chesapeake, VA
Rev. Dr. Margaret Kutz	United Methodist	Chester, VA
Otelia Macon	Virginia Union University	Chester, VA
Rev. Carolyn H. Pegram	Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chesterfield,	Chesterfield, VA
Tiauna Webb	Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc	Chicago, IL
Rev. Dr. Iva Carruthers	Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference	Chicago, IL
Rev. Jamar A. Boyd, II	Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.	Chicago, IL
Rev. Dr. Susan K Smith	Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc.	Chicago, IL
Rev. Dr. Barry Penn Hollar	United Methodist Church	Culpeper, VA
Rev. Dr. Michael R. Lohmann	Epiphany Lutheran Church	Dale City, VA
Rabbi Nancy Kasten	Faith Commons	Dallas, Texas
Rev. Dr. Timothy Tee Boddie	Conference of National Black Churches	Dumfries, VA
Rev Diane Carroll	The Episcopal Church	Dunnsville, VA
Rev. Christina Tutterow	PC (USA)	Fairview, NC
Rev James Page	Galloway UMC	Falls Church, VA
Rev. Elizabeth Eaton BCC	Hospital chaplain	Fredericksburg, VA
Rev.Dr. Mary Catherine Miller	United Methodist Church	Front Royal VA
The Rev. Shea Godwin	Calvary Episcopal Church	Front Royal, VA
The Rev. Valerie J. Hayes	Calvary Episcopal Church	Front Royal, VA
The Rev. Deborah Rutter	Retired, Episcopal Church	Front Royal, VA
Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood	Christian	Gettysburg, PA
Rev. Dr. Aamon R. Miller	ARM Ministries	Glen Allen
Rev. Crystal Varner Parker	Salisbury Presbyterian Church	Glen Allen, VA
Pastor Andrew Son	Richmond Central Presbyterian Church	Halifax, VA
Rev. Deloris Gwathmey	Providence Baptist Church	Hanover, VA
Virginia Anderson	Great grandma	Hanover, VA
Dr. Leonard Edloe	New Hope Fellowship	Hartfield, VA
leonard.edloe@gmail.com	New Hope Fellowship	Hartfield, VA
The Rev. Kimberly A Reinholz	Episcopal Church	Henrico VA
John Hugh Alexander James	Episcopal Church	Henrico VA
Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins	New Baptist Covenant	Jacksonville, FL
Carolyn Mitchell Dillard	VUU Alumna	Keswick, VA
Rev. Dr. Reuben S. Carter	Senior Pastor	King William, VA
Rev. Dr. Rosia Williams	PBA	King William, VA

Bobby Coleman	Faith leader	King William, VA
Mary Lee	Mangohick Baptist Church	King William, VA
Rev. Shawn L. Knight	Baptist Liberty Church, King William, Virginia	King William, VA
Rev. Daniel Vélez-Rivera	St Gabriel's Episcopal Church	Leesburg, VA
Rev. Tracey B. Lyons	United Methodist Church	Leesburg, VA
Rabbi David Greenspoon	Jewtique Concierge Rabbinic Services	Leesburg, VA
Rev. Seon Hwe Kim	VAUMC	Louisa, VA
The Rev. Vinnie Lainson	Trinity Episcopal Church, Manassas, VA	Manassas, VA
Pastor Favour Herbert	Chapel of His Glory	Manassas, VA
Minister Gale Robinson	New Life Community Church	Manquin, VA
Deacon Alex R. Coleman	Christian	Manquin, VA
Rev. Littycia Clay-Crawley	New Life Community Church & Mt. Vernon Baptist Church	Maquin, VA & Richmond, VA
The Very Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith	St. Thomas Episcopal Church	McLean, VA
Rev. Meg Thomas	McLean Baptist Church, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	McLean, VA
The Rev. Dina Widlake	St. John's Episcopal Church McLean	McLean, VA
Rev. Dr. John T. Boyd	Baptist Minister	Mechanicsville, VA
Rachel Parker, RN, MSN	Oxford Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Mechanicsville, VA
Rev. Jessica Townes	American Baptist	Midlothian, VA
Rev. Ricardo A. Haynes	Baptist	Midlothian, VA
Ayesha Edwards	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Midlothian, VA
Rev. Terry Maples	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	Midlothian, VA
Rev. Joan Maples	N/A	Midlothian, VA
Minister Freddie Robinson	Virginia Union University	Midlothian, VA
Rev. Adam C. Bowling	First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, VA	Montclair, VA
Rev. William Campbell	United Methodist Church	Murfreesboro, TN
Rev. Nathan Empsall	Faithful America	New Haven, CT
Rev. Dr. Charity Fisher	Non Denominational	Norfolk, VA
Rev. Dan Wickert	Bayview UCC	Norfolk, VA
Rev. Gloria Williams	Shekinah Kingdom Church (Chesapeake, VA)	Norfolk, VA
Rev. Dr. April Edwards	Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology	North Chesterfield, VA
The Rev. Robin Teasley	The Episcopal Church	North Chesterfield, VA
The Rev. Dr. Mary Brennan Thorpe	Epiphany Episcopal Church	Oak Hill, VA
Rev. Lisa Dunson	Covenant Baptist UCC	Oxon Hill
Rev. Dr. J. Jeffrey Butcher	United Methodist	Palmyra, VA
Dr. Lafayette Jefferson Jr.	Petersburg NAACP	Petersburg VA
Elder Gail D Outlaw	Clergy	Petersburg VA
Rev. Dianne Weeks	Mount Olivet Baptist Church	Petersburg, VA
Bishop Jeffrey Reaves	Good Shepherd Baptist Church	Petersburg, VA
Rev. Dr. John C. Brisco III	Asso. Minister/ Mt. Oliver Baptist Church	Petersburg, VA
Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart	The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries	Philadelphia, PA

Reverend Darnell A.L. Carruthers	Greenbrier Baptist Church	Powhatan, VA
Rev. Dr. David Milam	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church	Purcellville, VA
Pastor Dr. Natachia Randles	The Redeemed Center	Quinton, VA
Rev. Greg Bolt	First Presbyterian Church	Red Wing, MN
Rev. Dr. Kay Rodgers	UCC President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity, Senior Pastor Jerusalem Baptist Church-Manakin (Goochland)	Reston, VA
Rev. Dr. Emanuel C. Harris		Richmond, VA
Pastor Cassandra Shaw	Destined and Designed by Faith Outreach Ministries	Richmond, VA
Dr. Joshua L. Mitchell	31st Street Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
Rev. Deacon Christine Garcia	Diocese of Virginia	Richmond, VA
Dr. LaKeisha Cook	N/A	Richmond, VA
Khari Jackson	Myself	Richmond, VA
Rev. Chris Crowley	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	Richmond, VA
Rev. Léssie R. Alcin	Baptist	Richmond, VA
Rev. Reese Washington Jr	Hassidiah Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
Rev. Olivia Bauer	OneSpirit Interfaith	Richmond, VA
Rev. Mairi Renwick	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Dr. Richard W. Voelz	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Mary Lib Morgan	Seventh Street Christian Church (DOC)	Richmond, VA
Cantor Dara Rosenblatt	Temple Beth-El	Richmond, VA
Rabbi Michael Knopf	Temple Beth-El	Richmond, VA
Rev. Drew Willson	Boulevard United Methodist Church	Richmond, VA
The Rev. Dr. Karen-Marie Yust	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. Sheryl Johnson	Ginter Park Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
Dr. John T. Carroll	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. Kenny Callaghan	Metropolitan Community Church of Richmond	Richmond, VA
Nellie Martin	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Madison Winters	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. Rennie Chew Jr	A Servants Heart Ministry	Richmond, VA
Dr. Paul Flowers, Sr.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. Deacon Karla Westfall Hunt	Episcopal Diocese of Virginia	Richmond, VA
David McDowell	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Kate Brown - M.Ed.	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. Dr. Megan Fullerton Strollo	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Trish King	Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary	Richmond, VA
Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis	Union Presbyterian Seminary	Richmond, VA
Rev. James Elliott	Seventh Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	Richmond, VA
Reverend Tom Gerstenlauer	St. John's United Church of Christ	Richmond, VA
Vanessa Johnson	Richmond Public Schools	Richmond, VA

Min. Cassandra Williams	Second Baptist Church of Frankford. Phila, Pa	Richmond, VA
Rev. Eden Kevin Heffernan	Richmond Zen	Richmond, VA
Rev. Kathryn Talley	United Methodist	Richmond, VA
Rev. Robin D Mines	Institute For Missions, Ministry & Music, Inc.	Richmond, VA
Rev. David Green Jr.	A.M.E Church	Richmond, VA
Rev. Dr. Rebecca H. Weaver	Presbyterian Church (USA)	Richmond, VA
Rev. Ayo Morton	the Saint Paul's Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
The Reverend Cate Anthony	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	Richmond, VA
Reverend Dr. MarQuita Carmichael	Virginia Union University	Richmond, VA
Juan Carlos Roca Medina, Bishop.	Full Gospel Church of God	Richmond, VA
Rev. Amy Russell	Unitarian Universalist	Richmond, VA
Rev. Carrie J. Woolridge	Gethsemane Baptist Church	Richmond, VA
Rev. Dr. Demetrius A. Russell	Sweet Union Baptist Church	Roanoke, VA
Rev. Sean Burch	Spirit of Unity Baptist Church	Roanoke, VA
Rev. Charles W. Ellis	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	Roanoke, VA
Rev. Dr. David Jones	Williams Memorial Baptist Church	Roanoke, VA
Rev. Daniel Wray	Round Hill UMC	Round Hill, VA
The Rev. Grace Cangialosi	Episcopal Church	Ruckersville, VA
Rev. Tony Palubicki	PC (USA) Retired	Salem, VA
Tamika Lewis	Spirit of Unity Baptist Church	Salem, VA
Min Cynthia Jones	Good Hope Baptist	South Chesterfield, VA
Min. Margaret Outlaw	Asst. Minister Ebenezer Baptist Church	Suffolk VA
Stacey Ellis	Suffolk Public Schools	Suffolk, VA
Tamara Bridgeforth-Goodman	constituent	Union, NJ
Rev. Virginia R. Tourville	Vienna Baptist Church	Vienna, VA
The Rev. Jacqueline Thomson	Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal)	Vienna, VA
Dr. Akeem Walker	First Baptist Church of Powellsville	Virginia
Clyde Davis	Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church	Virginia Beach, VA
Fr. Mario Melendez	Diocese of Southern Virginia	Virginia Beach, VA
Rev. John C. Soderberg	United Methodist	Virginia Beach, VA
The Rev. Michael Church	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Warrenton, VA
Rev. Christian S. Watkins	NETWORK Lobby/United Methodist Church	Washington DC
Ch. Maggie Siddiqi	Center for American Progress	Washington, DC
Rev. Keisha I. Patrick	Third Street Church of God	Washington, DC
Jason Miller	Franciscan Action Network	Washington, DC
Rev. Peter Simmons-Scie	The Community Church of Washington DC-UCC	Washington, DC
Dr. Amy Tillerson-Brown	Mary Baldwin University	Waynesboro, VA
Rev. Portia Gaines-Morman	Bethany Baptist Church	West Point, VA
Steve Morman	Bethany Baptist Church	West Point, VA
James E Mickens	PBA	West Point, VA

Rev. Dr. David M. Hindman	Clergy, The United Methodist Church	Williamsburg, VA
Rev. Dr. Helen Washington-Randall	Reverend	Williamsburg, VA
Rev. Dr. Jenny Call	Baptist chaplain	Williamsburg, VA
Rev. Dr. John D. Copenhaver	United Methodist clergy	Winchester, VA
The Very Rev. Susan MacDonald	St. Paul's on-the-Hill	Winchester, VA
Rev. Heidi David-Young	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	Winchester, VA
The Rev. Ann H. Truitt	Saint Paul's on-the-Hill Episcopal Church	Winchester, VA
Gwen Borders-Walker	Love hope Fellowship Church	Winchester, VA
Rev. Robin Bolen Anderson	Commonwealth Baptist Church	Woodbridge, VA
Pastor Kathleen Anderson	Central Lutheran Church	Yakima, WA