



**The United Holy Church of America, Inc.**  
**Bishop Harry L. Cohen, Presiding Prelate**

5104 Dunstan Road, Greensboro, NC 27405 - 336-621-0669

July 12, 2016

*Presiding Prelate*  
*Bishop Harry L. Cohen*

*Vice President*  
*Bishop Ralph E. Love, Sr.*

*2nd Vice President*  
*Bishop Greg Hargrave*

*Recording Secretary*  
*Min. Esther Walker*

*Financial Secretary*  
*Sis. Patricia Durham*

*Treasurer*  
*Elder Scottie Rogers*

Dear Fellow Believers:

I've heard from many of you, especially this past week, of how you are hurting and your heart is heavy for all we are experiencing in this country. You are concerned about the safety of your loved ones and you are angered that those charged with the safety of the community have themselves become targets. Many of you are asking what can you do, what role can you play and how can you be a change agent?

God has designed the church and us for such a time as this. The scripture says we are to be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and that we are to witness to the ends of the earth. We have been called to love and accept one another, to not judge, to do unto others, to encourage one another, to build each other up and to live in harmony. We have an obligation to pray for each other, to pray for our families and community, pray for our elected officials and leaders. But that's just one part of our responsibility. We have also been called to work. And there is much work we can do.

I'm asking you as members of the United Holy Church of America to do what you can in your communities to make a difference. Volunteer at your local food banks and homeless shelters. Help coach or support a youth athletic team. Expand your vacation Bible school sessions beyond one week and reach outside your church walls into other neighborhoods and communities. Become a mentor or sign up to become a big brother or a big sister. Help build a Habitat home. In other words, find the time to help the least of these.

I'm asking our churches to open their doors and hold programs and events and activities that offer opportunities for young people to be engaged in positive activities. Support youth basketball leagues, offer summer feeding programs, hold tutoring sessions so our young people won't fall behind during the summer, and do what you can so young people, in particular, aren't left alone.

All of us need to join with other neighborhood groups and organizations and other churches and work to improve community dialogue. Meet with your local police and safety authorities and invite them to come into your churches. This gives them the opportunity to share and gives those in attendance the opportunity to dialogue with them. We are all better when we can talk *to* rather than *at* each other.

Your activities don't have to be limited to what I've stated above. Be creative in your approach. But find a way to merge your faith and your work.

These might seem like small gestures, but when we all do what we can, we can collectively make a difference.

Our young people are hurting. They are crying out and if we are to be the church of tomorrow we have to feed them physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally *today*.

For those of you already doing this work, I applaud you and encourage you to do more. For those not sure what to do, just take the first step. Reach out to those as Christ reached out to you. Scripture tells us that for the first six days, God worked. He created. He made. He divided. He spoke. And He gathered. And then He made man in His image and sent us out to do His will.

The world is watching and waiting to see what the church will do, especially in times like these. Let's get to work.

In Faithful Leadership,

† 

Bishop Harry L. Cohen

Presiding Prelate of the United Holy Church of America, Inc.