

# The Alabama Faith Council

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

*Oh, God, Creator and Sustainer, give us Your guidance in our meeting today.*

*Keep us ever mindful that we have come together as humble servants to consult with each other and to build relationships between all people of faith in God.*

*Through our consultation:*

*May we broaden our understanding and appreciation of the diversity around us.*

*May we enable each other to express the fullness of all our faiths.*

*May we enhance our knowledge on issues of mutual concern.*

*May we promote unity, peace and equality in all our endeavors.*

*We stand together believing:*

*All life is sacred to God.*

*All people are inherently equal in their humanity, worth, and dignity.*

*Working together creates a safer and stronger community for all.*

*Dialogue is essential to build trust.*

*Speaking on issues collectively is better than speaking alone.*

*We are called to make a positive contribution to the common good through compassionate support of and listening to the voices of the poor and vulnerable.*

*We therefore renew our commitment:*

*To apply the principles of our faith traditions to important and timely issues.*

*To draw on the faith, wisdom and strength of all who are around the table today.*

*To seek the best actions where deemed necessary and possible for the people of Alabama, especially those whose needs are the greatest and those whose resources in life are the least.*

*To build a beloved community throughout the State of Alabama.*

*Oh, God, help us to be your faithful hands to see it done.*

**AMEN.**

## Prayer before Lunch

*Grant us, God, a vision of Alabama as you would have it:*

*An Alabama where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor.*

*An Alabama where the riches of creation are shared and everyone can enjoy them.*

*An Alabama where different races, religions and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect.*

*An Alabama where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love.*

*Give us the inspiration and courage to build that Alabama where all people can share the bounty of your gifts at the table of life.*

*AMEN.*

## Closing Prayer

*As we move out into the world, God, may we find honor and respect as we honor and respect all life we encounter each day.*

*May God bless each of us as we bless those around us.*

*May God protect each of us as we defend the rights of those who differ from us in opinion or inspiration.*

*May God be gracious to each of us as we share our resources with those less fortunate, those disempowered, and those disconnected from community.*

*May the light of hope be kindled through our actions so that Your gifts of life can be celebrated throughout the world, dispelling the shadows that grip our neighborhoods, our cities, our state, our country, and our world.*

*May we attain peace and justice together and never at the expense of another.*

*Amen.*