

Writing + Design + Photography: News

Bonded in solidarity: More than 300 faith leaders gather for Prophetic Resistance Summit in Indianapolis

THE ENERGY IN THE ROOM was palpable. More than 300 prominent faith leaders and tribal elders from around the country were bonded in solidarity, with a determination to plan a prophetic uprising leading up to the 2018 mid-term elections.

“This is about us getting clear collectively that we want to dismantle white supremacy,” said the Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews, PICO National Network’s director of clergy organizing. “We want to also transform the systems that shape the lives of us and the people in our communities.”

Our nation’s systems are broken. And over the course of three days, PICO National Network’s Prophetic Resistance Summit attendees prepared to build their own congregations, communities, faith networks and federations to be prophetic spiritual leaders nationwide. The summit was held in Indianapolis.

“President Trump’s rhetoric has created an environment where those who spread hate are validated, coddled and protected,” said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries of the United Church of Christ and senior pastor of Christ the King UCC in Florissant, Mo., one of the event’s speakers. “Our role as faith leaders is to denounce the sins of our nation, sins that push our black and brown brothers and sisters to the margins, leaving them in fear for their lives.”

Rabbi Sharon Brous, senior and founding rabbi of California-based IKAR and the keynote speaker for

the summit’s opening day, spoke emphatically about the wrongs that are accepted in today’s society, encouraging righteous resistance of immoral policies that are rooted in racism.

“We’ve been stuck in a kind of reactive mode, suffering from a sort of daily whiplash that’s been happening in this country — a daily assault on what we all know to be just and right,” said Rabbi

Brous. “That has left many of us with an overwhelming sense of not only incredulity but of personal fragility. We’re worried about our loved ones, our families, our communities and our nation.”

Clergy, faith leaders and others have been discussing civil disobedience and disruption as possible strategies to urge policymakers to create legislation that benefits the whole. The goal is to insert a moral core that puts families first by changing the tide through local, state and national elections.

“We can no longer sit on the sidelines as the floodwaters of injustice roll over our families,” said Rev. Clarence C. Moore, IndyCAN pastor of New Era Church in Indianapolis. “My prayer is that the work we commit to [at the summit] ends the legacy of white supremacy — from mass incarceration to deportation — rather than passing it on to the next generation.

The summit positioned people of faith to successfully adopt a theology of resistance that includes electoral engagement and voter outreach.

In Indiana, faith leaders plan to hold 100,000 conversations with voters largely bypassed by campaigns and parties, in what is expected to be the largest volunteer-led voter education program of a decade. In its success, it will build a new block of religious voters committed to hold candidates running for office accountable to a racial- and economic-justice policy agenda that puts families first.



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**E-newsletter Article:
Event**

PHOTOGRAPHY
**Event: Prophetic
Resistance Summit**

MANAGEMENT
**Plan, Write, Design,
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E-newsletter**

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Pictured above: Episcopal clergy leaders from PICO federations across the country gathered for a photo to celebrate their solidarity at the Prophetic Resistance Summit. (Photo credit: Cole Farnley, CorComm Creative)

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