

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

June 8, 2026

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Raskin,

As Christian faith leaders, we write to express our deep and abiding support for the people and the vital work of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). While the SPLC's history of working to eradicate the KKK is, of course, laudable, we wish to emphasize the importance of what the SPLC does for the people we serve in the trying times we are navigating today.

The SPLC devotes its time and its resources to tackling the most essential problems faced by the members of our communities and our congregations, and we firmly reject the untruthful allegation that the SPLC is anti-Christian. Our faith teaches us to care for the sick and the imprisoned, to feed and clothe the impoverished, to house the homeless, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The SPLC embodies these tenets. Through litigation, through its tireless work in state legislatures and on Capitol Hill, through educating and equipping the public to advocate for itself, and through substantial contributions of its financial resources, the SPLC stands up for voting rights, seeks to protect the poor against threats to their access to housing, food and healthcare, advocates for the rights of the incarcerated, and continues its longstanding work to prevent hatred from wielding power over marginalized communities.

Hatred takes many forms, and at times attempts to cloak itself with religious justifications. Jesus warned us in the Gospel of Matthew to "beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Just as communities of faith have endured far too much violence motivated by religious, ethnic, race-based, and other forms of hatred – from harassment and threats to mass shootings and church burnings – so have marginalized communities come under attack by the forces of hate. The SPLC has stood with us all, time after time. We stand now with the SPLC, as it is under attack by those who oppose its work for their own political gain.

Sincerely,

John Allen, Reverend, United Methodist Church  
Martin Todd Allen, Reverend, Dr., Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson  
Andy Andrews, Reverend/Pastor, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
Rosa S. Barron, Reverend, Second Allen AME  
James C. Beam-Ingram, Reverend, Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Rachel Benefield, Senior Pastor, The Nourishing Place  
Robert M. Blanton, Reverend/Pastor, The Episcopal Church of the Creator, Clinton, Mississippi  
Marta Sobrino Bolen, Associate Pastor, New Albany UMC  
Chris Bowers, Pastor, Gautier First United Methodist Church  
Vivian Brown-Toussaint, Pastor, Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Susannah Grubbs Carr, Senior Pastor, Wells UMC  
Bruce Case, Senior Pastor, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Jackson, MS  
Steve Casteel, Reverend, United Methodist Church  
Elizabeth Davidson, Clergy, United Methodist Church  
Dorothy Dickson-Rishel, Clergy, Mississippi United Methodist AC  
Michael Dixon, Reverend, Ekklesia Hattiesburg

Brandon Halford, Reverend, MS AC UMC  
Eddie C. Hartwell, Sr., Pastor, St. James Baptist Church  
Lisa Garvin, Clergy, The United Methodist Church  
Clint Gill, Retired UMC Pastor, Mississippi Annual Conference  
Allen D. Jenkins, Senior Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis  
Philip Messner, Reverend, Mississippi Conference – United Methodist Church (Retired)  
Allen Regan, Associate Pastor, Main Street UMC  
Walter Roberts, Jr., Pastor, Leavell Woods UMC and Lynch Chapel UMC  
Jonathan Tullos, Pastor, Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church