The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago was horrified to hear of the murders at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of the victims of this hate crime. While violence on our streets in an abomination anywhere it occurs, it is especially true when it happens in a sacred space where people should feel secure and safe to worship. Our hand is extended to our Chicago area AME churches and we stand with you in mourning this loss of life and desecration of God's name.

Rabbi Michael Balinsky, CRLMC President
Rev. Paul H. Rutgers, CRLMC Co-Executive Director

June 18, 2015