

Rabbi Michael Balinsky
President

Bishop Wayne Miller
Vice President

Mr. E. Garnet Fay
Secretary

Mr. Gary Blakely
Treasurer

Rev. Paul Rutgers
Co-Executive Director

Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.
Co-Executive Director

Ms. Paloma Cabetas
Administrative Assistant

**MEMBERS INCLUDE RELIGIOUS
LEADERS FROM THE:**

African Methodist Episcopal Church

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

American Baptist Churches of Metro
Chicago

Armenian Orthodox Church

Baptist General Convention of Illinois

Chicago Board of Rabbis

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints Church of God in Christ

Church of the Brethren

Council for Islamic Organizations of
Greater Chicago

Episcopal Church (U.S.A.)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Greek Orthodox Church

International Council of Community
Churches

Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago

Orthodox Church in America

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

Salvation Army

Serbian Orthodox Church

Sikh Religious Society of Chicago

Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of
Chicago

Ukrainian Catholic Church

Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Baptist State Convention

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Church

Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago

Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan
Chicago

Catholic Theological Union

Chicago Theological Seminary

Lutheran School of Theology

McCormick Theological Seminary

Meadville-Lombard Theological School

Community Renewal Society

InterFaith Connect



August 25, 2015

An Open Letter to Governor Bruce Rauner, President John Cullerton, Speaker Michael Madigan, Senator Christine Radogno, Representative James Durkin

The Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago understands there are deep differences in political and economic values among you, which lead to significant disagreement in public policy. But these differences and their consequence cannot excuse or justify the failure to meet your moral and political obligations as elected leaders.

The numerous faith traditions represented on the Council of Religious Leaders also have many deep differences, but we also are able to agree on what is expected of us as religious leaders. Moreover, all of our religious traditions are of one accord in teaching that a basic responsibility of any government is to care for those in need and to promote the common good of all.

We believe that the crisis we face in our State is morally unconscionable. We also believe that our political leaders have the moral fiber to do what is right. Illinois cannot operate responsibly without a budget, but also it cannot operate morally without a budget that provides for those in need.

So we pray that you will take immediate steps to restore state government to meet its obligations to Illinois residents, especially to those who are in desperate need - the poor, the sick and disabled, the weak and vulnerable.

We also pray that you end this impasse and assert a renewed moral leadership in Illinois that will bring us again to a place where we all can flourish.

Rev. Paul H. Rutgers Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.
Co-Executive Directors