

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DOVER

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NUMBER THIRTY-THREE**

TO: HEADS OF ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

RE: CREATING THE DELAWARE COUNCIL OF FAITH-BASED PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AND AMONG FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, Delaware's religious traditions have been a foundation of strong communities across our state, and religious institutions have helped contribute to the development of our citizens and our communities by addressing issues of poverty, crime, violence, lack of education, homelessness and other social ills;

WHEREAS, faith-based organizations have a reach that extends well beyond their congregations, and they can bring unique skills, services, and resources to bear to assist many of the most vulnerable persons in our communities;

WHEREAS, there are many opportunities for faith-based organizations to partner with executive branch agencies and other government entities to further strengthen our communities by promoting public safety, sponsoring use of parks and recreation facilities, extending services to youth and families at risk, promoting education and graduation, and extending awareness of health care needs;

WHEREAS, establishing partnerships between executive branch agencies and faith-based organizations may lead to many additional opportunities to deliver services to Delaware citizens more effectively than either government or faith-based organizations can do alone;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and his Director of Community Engagement and Programs, Raina Allen, have worked to build strong relationships between and among faith-based organizations and government entities, foundations and other supporting organizations;

WHEREAS, strong communications between and among various faith-based organizations and the communities they serve can also be facilitated by a council dedicated to building partnerships with executive branch agencies, and those communications can facilitate a collaborative approach to addressing the social and economic ills that affect our communities;

WHEREAS, any organization that is facilitating conversations between state government and faith-based organizations must be broadly representative of a diversity of religious traditions and institutions to reach the largest number of persons within those faith communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JACK A. MARKELL, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby DECLARE and ORDER that:

1. The Delaware Council of Faith-Based Partnerships (the "Council") is hereby created.
2. The Council shall be composed of no less than 9 members. Eight or more members shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. One member shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Lieutenant Governor. The membership of the Council shall reflect the religious and geographic diversity of the people of the State of Delaware.
3. The Governor shall designate one or more members of the Council to serve as Chairperson(s). Members of the Council shall receive no compensation. The Council shall adopt and make public procedures and standards for the conduct of its affairs, consistent with this Order.
4. All executive branch state agencies and departments shall cooperate with the Council when requested. The Council may call and rely upon the expertise of individuals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, support or other functions necessary and appropriate to accomplish its mission.
5. The Council shall have the following powers, duties and functions:
  - (a) Work closely with faith-based and community-based groups, charitable organizations, private foundations, voluntary associations, educational institutions, and other non-profit service organizations to promote volunteerism and community service;
  - (b) Develop partnerships between faith-based groups and executive branch agencies that will facilitate the missions of those organizations in areas such as education, social services, health, and housing;
  - (c) Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among faith-based organizations whereby such organizations can work together to improve delivery of services in the community;

- (d) Promote innovation and model programs and initiatives, and share best practices among faith-based groups and organizations;
- (e) Coordinate Council activities with those administered by private, faith-based and governmental organizations to ensure that services are rendered efficiently and that they are not duplicated; and
- (f) Develop sustainable funding through private sources to support the objectives of the Council and the collaborative efforts to which Delaware faith-based organizations are devoted.

6. The Council shall ensure that all of its activities are in compliance with applicable laws regarding the freedom of religion, including the requirements of the Bill of Rights of the Delaware Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

7. The Council shall report any recommendations to the Office of the Governor and/or the affected state agency on a periodic basis.

**APPROVED this 4th day of January, 2012**

*Jack Markell*

**Governor**

**ATTEST:**

*[Signature]*

**Secretary of State**

