

# Episcopal Diocese of Washington

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA † MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, CHARLES COUNTY, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 12, 2013

To The Judges for the 2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize:

We would like to encourage The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought to select Faith in Action, the first "DC Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit" (DCYAFLS), held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize. The DCYAFLS perfectly captured the spirit of interfaith harmony and religious understanding envisioned by your organization.

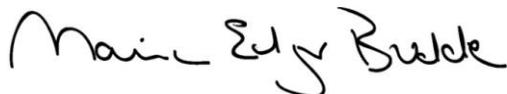
Young adults living or working in the nation's capital have the opportunity and responsibility to model interfaith cooperation for other young adult leaders in the US and around the world. The Summit highlighted the positive impact that young adults can have on peace in the world, and gave those who attended a stronger sense of their ability to empower other young adults to engage in interfaith cooperation locally. The event brought together nearly 100 young adult faith leaders from over a dozen local religious communities around the Washington DC area and focused on encouraging stronger local cooperation between emerging leaders from diverse religious groups, learning more about each other's faith traditions, sharing successes and challenges in mobilizing young people for service and social justice, and building a strong network of supportive allies.

This year's Summit attendees were Bahá'í, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Latter Day Saint, Muslim, Protestant, Sikh, and Zoroastrian. They included clergy, laypersons, community organizers, and activists. Washington DC's Mayor Vincent Gray addressed the summit as did representatives from the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. These visits by the leadership in the highest levels of local and national government speak to the growing recognition of the importance of interfaith work in our nation's capital and the United States as a whole, and further to the exemplary work of the organizers who brought together such an inspiring gathering of young leaders.

It is our hope that similar events will take place in the future, and that our own faith community will continue to be a part of this necessary work. We applaud the organizers of Faith in Action DC's "Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit" and recommend their selection for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize.

Thank you.

Faithfully,



The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, D.Min.  
Bishop of Washington



Mr. Jason Evans  
Diocesan Young Adult Missioner