



March 11th, 2025

Dear Friend,

It feels like a moment when we need to share successes. Last week, the steering group stepped back to review what we have achieved over the past 15 months and how we have gone about it. The table below shows the activities conducted by faith leaders, faith-based organizations, congregations, and individuals within this collaborative. Much of this work focused on ensuring our elections were free from violence, sharing accurate and usable information about election processes and other pressing issues, and addressing polarization and division in our communities.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Strategy Meetings	Trainings	Learning Tours	Webinars
Newsletters	Conferences	Presentations	Preaching
Relationship Building	Services & Days of Prayer	Op-Eds & Earned Media	Social Media Ambassadors
<i>Election Day Activities:</i> Rapid Response Team, Prevention Network, Election Observers			

Engagement and interest in the work is high. The past 10 newsletters since August 2024 have an average open rate of 62.74% and a high of 76.8% at the end of January. Our goal remains to provide usable information and actions that address division and support our election processes in a range of ways that fit our contexts.

One piece of housekeeping that we are not clear about is how far our networking is reaching.

Please help us to know whether and how widely you share these newsletters, or the information included in them by filling out the short survey below.

[PLEASE TAKE THIS VERY BRIEF QUESTION SURVEY](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12 and March 26, April 9 and April 22:

Why Are We Divided and What Can We Do? Lessons from Northern Ireland

This [four-part series](#) will explore the structural and psychological dynamics of polarization in the U.S. and the lessons we can learn from Northern Ireland's 30-year Civil War. Guided by Rev. Dr. Gary Mason, a noted peacemaker and peacebuilder in his native Northern Ireland, the conversations will include conflict experts, former adversaries from the Northern Ireland conflict, victims of the conflict, and cross-partisan faith and civil society leaders working in the U.S.

The poster features logos for The Carter Center, RethinkingConflict, and the U.S. Department of State at the top. The title 'Why Are We Divided? What Can We Do?' is prominently displayed in large blue font, with 'LESSONS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND' below it. The dates and topics for the four sessions are listed in a grid: March 12, 2025 (Why Are We Divided?), March 26, 2025 (Sharing Contested Space), April 9, 2025 (Grievance, Grief, and Healing), and April 22, 2025 (Civic Health in Our Divided Country). A paragraph describes the series' focus on polarization and conflict resolution, guided by Rev. Dr. Gary Mason. A QR code is at the bottom, and a small note mentions the Georgia Democracy Resilience Network.

**Why Are We Divided?
What Can We Do?**
LESSONS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

March 12, 2025 Why Are We Divided?	March 26, 2025 Sharing Contested Space
April 9, 2025 Grievance, Grief, and Healing	April 22, 2025 Civic Health in Our Divided Country

This four-part series will explore the structural and psychological dynamics of polarization in the United States and the lessons we can learn from Northern Ireland. The conversations will be guided by Rev. Dr. Gary Mason, a noted peacebuilder in his native Northern Ireland. They will include conflict experts, former adversaries, and victims of the Northern Ireland conflict. Cross-partisan faith and civil society leaders working in the U.S. will also participate.

Faith Forward Democracy is part of the Georgia Democracy Resilience Network, which is supported by The Carter Center

[Learn More and Register](#)

March 26, 2025

The King Center Lunch and Learn: The Courageous Path

This month (Women's History and Appreciation Month), [The King Center](#) welcomes attendees for a Nonviolence365 workshop exploring how to protect freedom, justice, and democracy. Thirty scholarships are available to cover the registration and session costs.

NONVIOLENCE365® LUNCH & LEARN

MISSION

**THE COURAGEOUS PATH:
Mission Possible
with Nonviolence365**

Join us for this empowering and engaging NV365 workshop. This workshop will explore how we can protect freedom, justice, and democracy through the practical application of Nonviolence365 (Kingian Nonviolence).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 2025
11:30 AM EST
VIRTUAL

FREE
Scholarship Application & Registration Required

REGISTER AT
WWW.THEKINGCENTER.ORG

NONVIOLENCE365

[Register Here](https://www.thekingcenter.org)

May 12 - 15, 2025

Festival of Homiletics 2025

This year's Festival of Homiletics will be in Atlanta with the theme **“Preaching to Heal the Divide.”**

“Preachers today carry the weight of proclaiming the Gospel and helping their communities navigate through deeply divisive times. They need resources, wisdom, and support to serve as agents of healing and reconciliation. The 2025 Festival of Homiletics aims to provide exactly that--practical tools, theological frameworks, and spiritual nourishment for the vital work of bridge-building through preaching.”

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

[Learn More](#)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

April 1, 2025

Interfaith Children's Movement: Youth Advocacy Summer Internship Application Deadline

This 12-week virtual internship offers a dynamic environment for personal growth, leadership, and meaningful connections. Participants, ages 13-18, gain skills in workplace practices, responsibility, and advocacy while exploring the intricacies of policy and lawmaking.

This program helps youth develop their unique gifts, trust their voice, and follow their passions. They are exposed to new opportunities and empowered with the tools to make a lasting impact on their future. This unique and powerful internship empowers interns to understand how their voices can create positive change in their communities and beyond!

[Sign Up Today](#)

April 24, 2025

The Carter Center: Graduate Assistantship Application Deadline

The Carter Center is seeking a graduate student for the 2025-2026 academic year to conduct research and analysis related to “Understanding Best Practices for Depolarization in Faith Communities in the U.S.”

[Learn More](#)

Multifaith Youth Cohort for Healthy Civic Engagement

We live in an increasingly divided society. What can young people of faith do to heal these divisions? [Faith Forward Democracy](#) is creating an inaugural 25-person Multifaith Youth Cohort for Healthy Civic Engagement for launch in August 2025. This nonpartisan initiative will equip emerging young faith leaders (ages 18-30) with long-term skills to create local activities that address polarization and division within their immediate communities and more widely. It will provide support for the design and implementation of self-designed community initiatives. We welcome expressions of interest or nominations from network members. We are looking for dynamic, engaged, and open-minded young people of faith from across the religious spectrum.

[Learn More](#)

RESOURCES

Please take a minute to look through the faith-based resources on our [Faith Forward Resource Page](#). We welcome suggestions on what has worked for you in your space. Current online resources include:

[Sermon Central](#), a database of sermons searchable by topic, including [sermons on dialogue](#).

- **Example #1 – Staying Anchored in a Polarized World**
- **Example #2 – The Paradox of Christ for a Polarized World**
- **Example #3 – A Biblical Antidote to Polarization**

[Tom Porter Program on Religion and Conflict Transformation](#)

A seminary-based program in theologically informed conflict transformation, this program is aimed at training ministers and other religious leaders in the theology, theory, and practice of faith-based conflict transformation in the church and in the world. It is rooted in the Christian tradition.

Finally, please take a moment to fill out the survey.

[Outreach Survey.](#)

Sincerely,

Tom Crick

For the Faith Forward Democracy Steering Group
Project Advisor
The Carter Center



The [Georgia Faith Forward Democracy Network](#) is a multifaith, nonpartisan network of faith leaders who are united by our concern for our increasingly divided country and the impact those divisions have on our communities, families, and democracy. Our goal is to network information and best practices to maximize actions in support of our shared values of peace, irrespective of our faith or political views. A short-term goal is to ensure a peaceful, secure, and accessible election process in Georgia. [Georgia Faith Forward Democracy Network](#) is a part of the [Georgia Democracy Resilience Network](#), which is supported by [The Carter Center](#). Please contact us via the website or at drninfo@cartercenter.org.

[Follow Us on Facebook](#)



The Georgia Democracy
RESILIENCE NETWORK