



## AN INVITATION FROM JIM WALLIS

January 5, 2017

Dear friends,

In June 2016 I was honored to stand beside so many people of faith at Sojourners annual leadership gathering, The Summit, in Washington DC. For the past three years, we have convened more than 300 leaders from faith communities, nonprofits, philanthropy, and business committed to changing the world through faith and justice.

One of the highlights I will never forget was having panel discussions with veteran faith activists such as Sister Simone Campbell and Dr. James Forbes, followed by a conversation with a group of bright young leaders who are using their talents and experiences to work for justice.

Bree Newsome (pictured at right) was one of our young honorees. Perhaps you know her story. She is an artist, an activist, and a person of deep faith. When she looked upon the symbol of oppression, the confederate battle flag, flying on South Carolina state grounds, she said "no more." Her act of resistance was to literally climb the flag pole to remove the flag - an act that got her arrested. An outcry of support resulted in that flag being taken down for good.

True, much has happened in the past six months since we gathered at The Summit. The US has gone through the most contentious election processes in modern history. While politics continues to take center stage in the US, war has raged on in places like Syria, with millions of people displaced, wounded or killed. Climate change is a reality that will impact some of the most vulnerable populations around the globe. Even for those who have been working for social justice for many years, the headlines can discourage us.

Friends, I ask you now not to lose hope.

Bree's witness reminds us that **the actions of one person, committed to justice and inspired by faith, can move mountains.**



Now is the time for faith communities to come together - for prayer, discernment, speaking and standing up, solidarity and support for those most fearful right now, and for speaking truth to power. Our call in such a time as this, will be for **healing, resistance, and going deeper in our faith.**

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Already, prayerful networks of support are being set up in faith communities to offer love, welcome, assistance, and ultimately, resistance to actions that harm those who Jesus called "the least of these."

Sojourners is working with other groups to offer support to those who take The Matthew 25 pledge, with resources, toolkits, plans of action, and local networks to activate. Furthermore, we are once again hosting a gathering of leaders at The Summit to work together and discern next steps for social justice movements.

**The Summit, June 21-23, 2017** in Washington, DC, is being built around the urgent needs of our present world and the challenges we may face over the next few years. In this space we gather together leaders from across sectors to build relationships with one another, birth new partnerships, listen, and learn. We are creating a space for deep relationship and learning, and we want your voice and experience to be part of the conversation.

We depend on the generosity of our sponsors and partners to make this gathering a truly transformative experience. **Your sponsorship will allow you to reach a select group of influential leaders who are committed to progress on the most pressing justice issues of our time.**

Sponsorships help underwrite the cost of The Summit production, provide scholarships for young leaders, and demonstrate your organization's commitment to equipping faith leaders in social justice movements.

Now more than ever, your voice, your leadership, and your support are needed. Thank you for your consideration. Together we can all become more equipped, inspired, and ready for to put our faith into action, for resistance and for healing of a broken world.

With peace and gratitude,



Jim Wallis  
President, Sojourners

## THE SUMMIT IN REVIEW

Sojourners has provided a gathering space for leaders to learn, collaborate, and become inspired at The Summit since 2014. Archives of our session schedules and videos are available online at [summitforchange.com](http://summitforchange.com).

Past speakers include:

- Brian Stevenson, Equal Justice Initiative
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Massachusetts
- Sister Simone Campbell, NETWORK
- Matthew Scott, World Vision
- Stephan Bauman, CEO, World Relief
- Dr. Jim Yong Kim, President, World Bank
- Rashad Robinson, Color of Change
- Ed Stetzer, Executive Director, LifeWay Research
- Dr. Serene Jones, President, Union Theological Seminary
- Jose Antonio Vargas, Founder, Define American, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
- Rev. William Barber, President, NAACP of North Carolina
- Arne Sorenson, President and CEO, Marriott International

## WHAT MAKES THE SUMMIT UNIQUE

We create a unique space that encourages leaders to develop new relationships and advance collaborative solutions to make our movements for justice, peace, and equality stronger.

**Leaders** – This gathering is designed for leaders who are actively working as a faith and/or social justice leader. From civil rights veterans to young leaders who are carving new paths for their generation, are all welcome.

**Cross discipline** – Our conversations together are informed by participants from a wide variety of disciplines – nonprofit organizations, denominational leaders, academia, business and philanthropy – working on diverse social justice issues.

**Diversity** – Attendees reflect the diversity of our world. In 2016, 84% of speakers were persons of color and 60% of overall attendees identified as non-European descent. Attendees represent all branches of the Christian tradition, as well as other faith traditions and secular voices.

**Guides** – Our time together is enhanced by elders in the social justice movement who provide group consultation and by spiritual directors ready to meet one on one with participants.

**Intensive** – We offer formal training, collaborative solution building sessions, and convening times for affinity groups especially designed for fostering ongoing relationships.

## SPONSORS, THE SUMMIT 2016

We are immensely thankful for sponsors from previous years who have supported The Summit. Our partners and sponsors from 2016 were:



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage our sponsor representatives to attend sessions, mix with attendees, and participate fully in the three days together for the best experience. Other than a one hour sponsored reception you will not be stuck at a booth like at a traditional conference!

The following represents the general guidelines for our sponsorship program.

### All sponsors contributing \$1,000 or more will receive:

- Logo and link on The Summit website, SummitforChange.com
- Recognition in on-site and printed promotional materials
- One piece of collateral distributed to all attendees
- Table at a sponsored break along with other sponsors

### All sponsors contributing \$2,500 or more will also receive:

- One complimentary attendee registration for The Summit
- A one-third page advertisement in *Sojourners* magazine, July issue which will be distributed to all Summit attendees

### All sponsors contributing \$5,000 or more will also receive:

- Two complimentary attendee registrations for The Summit
- An upgrade to a half page advertisement in *Sojourners* magazine, July issue which will be distributed to all Summit attendees
- Logo and link on The Summit website, SummitforChange.com
- Banner advertisement on Sojourners website, Sojo.net

### Major Sponsors contributing \$10,000 to \$15,000 will also receive:

- Recognition as the sponsor and/or host of a special small group session
- An upgrade to a full page ad in *Sojourners* magazine
- Additional attendee registrations for The Summit

### Partners contributing \$20,000 to \$50,000 may receive one or more of the following:

- Recognition in a video produced by Sojourners, shown at The Summit
- Recognition as the sponsor and/or host of a special convening or small group session
- Leadership representation in planning or speaking at The Summit
- Collaboration with Sojourners on a special project to be announced or presented at The Summit
- Sponsorship of a post-Summit resource released over the year following The Summit

We will work with you to tailor a sponsorship that suits your specific needs. To discuss your sponsorship, contact **Sandra Sims at Sojourners**, by phone at 202-745-4601 or email [ssims@sojo.net](mailto:ssims@sojo.net).

The final deadline for completing all sponsorship agreements is **May 1, 2017**.

**Thank you for your consideration!**