



## Building the Beloved Community For A Better New York for All

**DC 37, DC 1707, CSEA, Metropolitan Region 2; Greater New York Labor  
Religion Coalition New York AFSCME**

**Labor Faith & Community Outreach**

**Gathering & Briefing for Faith, Labor and Community Leaders**

**Thursday, November 20, 2014**

**DC 37, Rooms 1-2 , 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.**

# Who Are We?

## Builders of the Beloved Community

- ▶ District Council 37, District Council 1707, CSEA Metro Region 2
- ▶ 2012: first public meeting
- ▶ Our Vision
  - ▶ To support New York State AFSCME members and retirees in organizing around common challenges and opportunities impacting them through the faith and community-based organizations they belong to.
  - ▶ To build sustainable relationships with our members and our retirees, leaders and congregants in the houses of worship and community organizations they belong to, as we work together to fight for dignity, justice and equality.

## Our Goals for 2014-2015

- ▶ Sign up 500 labor faith and community builders statewide across all three AFSCME affiliates.
- ▶ Develop a sustainable education, mobilization, and organizing plan.
- ▶ Establish faith hubs in each of the five boroughs.

# Why LFCOP? Why Now?

- ▶ Every day, we see distorted accounts of the issues that are important to us as workers, retirees in our communities and in the labor movement.
- ▶ It's time we tell our story to our friends and neighbors in our churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples.
- ▶ It's time we tell our story to our friends and neighbors in our community boards, tenant organizations, and block associations.
- ▶ They need to know that our issues are their issues, and that the labor movement isn't limited to just union members and our workplaces.
- ▶ Our members are not just workers. They have roles and responsibilities outside of work and are often leaders in their communities and houses of worship. They are well placed to be leaders in the fight for A Better New York For All.

# LFCOP Highlights

- ▶ Established Orientation and Advanced Training for Members of DC 37, DC 1707 and CSEA, Metropolitan Region 2 in 2013 where over 200 were trained on diverse faith traditions and role of faith and community in our efforts as trade unionists to seek dignity, respect and our communities, workplaces and homes.
- ▶ Launched NY AFSCME Labor, Faith and Community Outreach website in 2012 at [www.dc37.net](http://www.dc37.net), and <https://cseany.org/?s=labor+faith+community>, and <http://dc1707.net/>.
- ▶ Held first NY AFSCME Conference and Training in May of 2012 at DC 1707 with over 150 attendees and guest speaker, Reverend Terrence Melvin, Secretary Treasurer of the Civil Service Employees Association and President of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionsits.
- ▶ Launched Get out the Vote in Houses of Worship in collaboration with NYC Central Labor Council and NYS AFL-CIO for primaries and elections in 2013 and 2014.
- ▶ Participated with our community, constituency and labor partners in Book Share Program with Staten Island.
- ▶ Established partnership with City Harvest in Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and Mariners section of Staten Island to address food deserts in our communities through volunteer opportunities for members and retirees to distribute food to those in need and to provide nutritional counseling.
- ▶ Participated in community building events

# What's Next?



"We can all get more together than we can apart; we can get more organized together than we can apart. And this is the way we gain power.

Power is the ability to achieve purpose, power is the ability to affect change...and we need power." Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.