

Tuesday January 15, 2019

Mr. Alex Caputo-Pearl  
President  
United Teachers of Los Angeles  
3303 Wilshire Blvd 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
LA, CA 90010

Mr. Caputo-Pearl:

We, the undersigned Los Angeles area African American clergypersons, write to strongly encourage your organization to reengage negotiations to fashion a new collective bargaining agreement. We are compelled to share our perspective given that as you and others exercise your right to strike, the fortunes of African American children do not improve on a picket line.

In the lead up to the strike and on its first day your public statements have included a disinterest in settling your contract dispute with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). While we support the exercise of your member's first amendment rights and utilization of the protections afforded employees under California law, negotiators should be at the table crafting a solution to end the strike.

Los Angeles' African American students alone would be one of the state's largest school populations. Our children deserve a chance at completing a successful school year.

How are seniors transitioning out of school, 8th graders going to high school, 5th graders going to middle school, kindergarteners going to 1st grade, special needs students, and parents with children in state preschool going to make up time lost in a protracted work stoppage of their instructors?

Your role as a union leader is to fight for your members and manage labor relations with the LAUSD. It is far from easy. These are the burdens of leadership. Your organization must continue to negotiate around the clock with our children and their well-being as a focus.

Thank you for considering our position and the best interests of children. It is our great hope that full and robust negotiations begin soon.

Sincerely,

Rev. John Cager, Ward AME Church  
Pastor K.W. Tulloss, President-Elect Baptist Ministers Conference Los Angeles and Vicinity

Pastor Nathaniel G Haley, United Christians Missionary Baptist Church  
Pastor Jerry Sorrells, Greater Holy St. John Baptist Church  
Pastor Torrey Collins, St. Rest Friendship Church Los Angeles  
Rev. Joyce Reece Kitchen, Emanuel-Turner AME Church  
Pastor Jack Wilson, Solid Rock Church  
Bishop Harrington Mc Frazier, New Beginnings Church  
Pastor Bill Hemphill, Concord Community Church  
Pastor Al Johnson, Divine Direction Church  
Pastor Jonathan Moseley, Grace Temple Baptist Church  
Pastor Stan Richards, Beacon of Light Baptist Church  
Rev. Rethis Murry, Holy Trinity AME Church  
Pastor Nathaniel W. Martin, New Life Institutional Baptist Church  
Pastor Elton Johnson, Metropolitan Baptist Church  
Pastor Fred Howard, South Side Bethel Baptist Church  
Pastor Ronald Bolden, Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
Pastor Danone Williams, Cedar Grove Baptist Church  
Pastor Ronald Harris, Abundant Blessings Church  
Pastor James Jones, Liberty Baptist Church  
Rev. Carl Himes, Weller Street Missionary Baptist Church