

The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition

flocc YEAR END REVIEW

2025





The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition (floc) is a multifaith national organization dedicated to advocating for justice, equity, and interrogation into the American Capital Punishment system.

The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition (floc) allows space for Black and Indigenous faith leaders to build community, ask questions, take action, and collaborate with other movement leaders working to end the system of death in America.

The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition (floc) was born out of a cohort in 2021 when policy leaders, advocates, activists, lawyers, academics, and faith leaders desired to extend access of policy, legal, and execution information directly to Black and Indigenous pastors/clergy. This initiative which started as 21 people on a Zoom call, has now grown into an organization of more than 700+ supporters, friends, families and partners.

floc's D.N.A.

1. Advocate for Policies to Eliminate the use of the capital punishment system:

floc will work to eliminate the capital punishment system, addressing racial discrimination, intellectual disability, wrongful convictions, felony murder, innocence claims and inhumane conditions on death row.

2. Empower Faith Leaders:

floc will educate and empower Black and Indigenous clergy to use their moral authority, influence and spiritual teachings to advocate for an end to state-sanctioned death in their respective states and nation.

3. Cast Vision:

floc aims to educate the public about the injustices and uneven applications when death sentences are applied, particularly with white victims. floc will introduce ways to hold district attorneys and municipalities accountable for authentic public safety.

4. Promote Healing:

floc recognizes the profound trauma inflicted by the death penalty on both victims' families and those involved in the system. The coalition will work toward healing, reconciliation and restoration.

Learning

NBC, USA, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2025

The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Incorporated- one of the oldest Black founded, led and established religious organizations in North America invited flocc to participate in a conversation entitled; “*Churches Who Care*”. This platform allowed visibility, partnership and fellowship with flocc and the National Baptist Convention and its 20,000+ churches. We look forward to collaborating and dreaming with the National Baptist Convention in the years to come.



faith leaders of color coalition

New Orleans, LA

MARCH 2025

New Orleans carried out their first execution of Jessie Lee Hoffman in almost 15 years by nitrogen gas. The execution came after lawyers sought a last-minute reprieve- arguing nitrogen hypoxia equals cruel and unusual punishment and is prohibited under the 8th Amendment. After this tireless fight, FLOCC along with PJI & NAACP Louisiana offered a prayer brunch for the faith community educating them about the role faith plays in stop execution campaigns.



Legislation



HB123 - Georgia

MAY 2025

After years of legislative advocacy and on-the-ground action in Georgia, HB123, a landmark bill that lowers the standard of proof for individuals with intellectual disabilities facing death sentences was signed into law. FLOCC played an active role in bringing Georgia faith leaders and lawmakers together, creating the space for honest dialogue about why this bill was not only necessary but morally urgent.

HB123 represents an essential first step in addressing the deeply flawed capital punishment system in our state and ensuring that those with intellectual disabilities are protected from wrongful execution. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many state officials, legislators, and advocates who carried, championed, and supported this bill from start to finish.

Prayer & Policy

FEBRUARY 2025

Months before HB123 was signed into law, our friends at GFADP organized a powerful lobby day that brought together multi-faith leaders standing in solidarity to bear witness and advocate for the bill. The theme was “Ring Around the Capitol. For supporters unable to be there in person, phone calls were made around the clock. For those able to gather physically, we joined hands in a circle to pray for the state of Georgia and for those entrusted with making the highest decisions in our government.

On that day, prayer and policy moved hand in hand, drawing urgent attention to the cruel and inhumane practice of executing individuals with intellectual disabilities and reinforcing the moral call confront it head on.



Litigation

Tremane Wood

NOVEMBER 2025

November 13th, 2025 Tremane Wood was granted clemency and saved from execution by the state of Oklahoma. For two years, flocc has led national advocacy and strategy efforts to stop the execution of Tremane Wood who has been on Oklahoma's death row for more than 20 years for felony murder. Amanda Bass Castro-Alves brilliantly led Tremane's legal team and trusted flocc to coordinate efforts with influential faith partners and national voice to contribute to the growing public pressure on his case. We were overwhelmingly excited and relieved by his clemency!



**CLEMENCY
GRANTED TO
TREMANE WOOD**

300 Pastors

NOVEMBER 2025

As advocacy for Tremane Wood intensified, FLOCC partnered with conservative strategists who indicated that Governor Stitt sought to define his gubernatorial legacy around principles of fairness and faith. With this insight, within a two-week period, FLOCC mobilized and secured more than 300 signatures from pastors and faith leaders urging the Governor of Oklahoma to stand with them and grant clemency to Tremane Wood.

One week before an execution date was set, the Oklahoma Board of Pardons and Paroles formally recommended clemency in Tremane Wood's case. This effort was launched to press the governor to follow the board's recommendation. The signed letter was hand-delivered directly to the governor's office three days before the scheduled execution.



**OVER 300 FAITH
LEADERS SAY:**

FOLLOW THE PAROLE BOARD.

SAVE *TREMANE WOOD*.

2025 Gallery

More voices in Oklahoma and across the nation plead for Governor Stitt to grant clemency to death row prisoner Tremane Wood

By Patrick B. McGuigan, Editor Emeritus
Nov 11, 2025 Updated Nov 11, 2025 0



Oklahoma death row prisoner Tremane Wood faces execution on Thursday, unless Governor Kevin Stitt agrees with the state Pardon & Parole Board's clemency recommendation.

Photo credit: Oklahoma Department of Corrections Photo of Tremane Wood.

Less than 2 days before scheduled execution, advocates ask Gov. Stitt to grant Tremane Wood clemency

Advocates are urging Gov. Stitt to grant clemency to Tremane Wood, citing doubts about his guilt and inadequate legal representation during his trial.



Updated: 6:10 PM CST Nov 11, 2025

Editorial Standards



Evan Onstot f X

Anchor

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board recently voted 3-2 to recommend clemency for death row inmate Tremane Wood, urging Gov. Kevin Stitt to spare his life before his execution Thursday.



In the past few weeks, Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond has [leveled allegations](#) of criminal wrongdoing against Tremane behind his lawyer denying them access to crit would support defending T those allegations. This all fi distraction from the injusti death sentence, which even

Faith leaders rally to stop death row inmate Tremane Wood's execution after meeting with Gov. Stitt

After Executing an Intellectually Disabled Man, Georgia Rewrote Its Death Penalty Law

Since 1988, not a single defendant had proven they were intellectually disabled. A judge will now make the determination during pretrial hearings.

By Madeline Thigpen

May 14, 2025



huffpost.com

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The People Who Helped Save 2 Men From Execution

"God has used them before. God can use them again," Julius Jones' spiritual adviser said ahead of Tremane Wood's scheduled execution.

By Jessica Schulberg

Dec 14, 2025, 08:00 AM EST
Updated 2 hours ago

18 COMMENTS

gathered Tuesday to urge Stitt to grant clemency to inmate Tremane Wood's ahead of his scheduled execution.



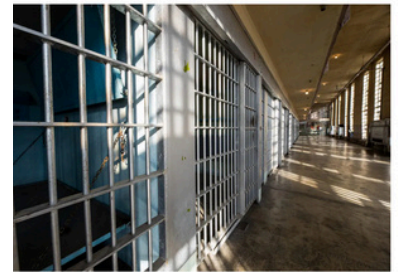
10 PM CST Nov 11, 2025
Editorial Standards



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Anchor

Faith leaders gathered v. Kevin Stitt to grant clemency to death row inmate Tremane Wood's scheduled execution.



Anti-death penalty and disability advocates have criticized how Georgia handled intellectual disability in death penalty cases, because defendants had to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that they were intellectually disabled, one of the highest standards of proof required in criminal law. (Getty Images)



WORD&WAY

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DECEMBER 5, 2025 /
AUTHOR: ADELLE M. BANKS, RNS

Faith Groups Join Other Death Penalty Opponents in New Campaign

(RNS) — More than 50 faith, civil rights, and other organizations launched a joint initiative to oppose the death penalty in the United States as the groups' leaders say they have been alarmed by increases in its use over the past year.

Laura Porter, executive director of the new initiative, the U.S. Campaign to End the Death Penalty, announced the initiative to media in a virtual event on Wednesday (Dec. 3).



Similarly, in Tremane's case, the community that rose up around him was really a function of some really incredible advocates and community leaders, including Brett Farley at the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma, Demetrius Minor at Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty, Joia Thornton, the director of the Faith Leaders of Color Coalition, Mrs. Cindy Birdwell, Tremane's sixth-grade teacher. It was just a really wonderful process through which we learned a lot from those community leaders and advocates about what they believed the public and Oklahoma decision-makers needed to know in order to make the right and just and fair decision in his case.

Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership 2026 Fellowship



Our Founder & National Director, Joia Erin Thornton, was selected to be a member of 2026 Womanist Leadership Fellowship. The Katie Geneva Cannon Womanist Fellowship is a leadership development program rooted in the legacy of Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, a pioneering theologian, ethicist, and the first African American woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She was also a foundational voice in womanist theology, which centers the experiences and leadership of Black women in theological scholarship, ethics, and ministry.

This fellowship will take place over the entire 2026 fiscal year and will allow our founder access to courses like Womanist Theology & Afrofuturism, Womanist Biblical Interpretation and other course to certify her as a womanist theologian. More importantly, this fellowship support Black women in leadership through intersectional spaces like health, justice, education and technology.

Project Title

Southern Faith Stories - focusing on the South's relationship with racial terror resistance and how faith has defined what people think about justice movements today

New Partners



National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, President of the NBC, USA., and Pastor Christopher Bullock, Director of Social, Civic and Political Commission formally agreed to partner with flocc on mutually shared initiatives in the next few years that include criminal justice advocacy and education, legislative alignment and other intersectional policy issues. The National Baptist Convention unites African-American Baptist churches to advance ministry, education, and community impact nationwide.



US Campaign to End the Death Penalty

The US Campaign to End the Death Penalty work with hundreds of organizations nationwide to build a national strategy to ending the death penalty. This umbrella organization engages in strategic dialogue, campaign planning, training opportunities, skill-sharing, and leadership development. They shape the national dialogue on the death penalty while also providing our partners with messaging research, communications strategy, technical assistance, and professional media relations services. FLOCC has been working with this group to strengthen its national impact.

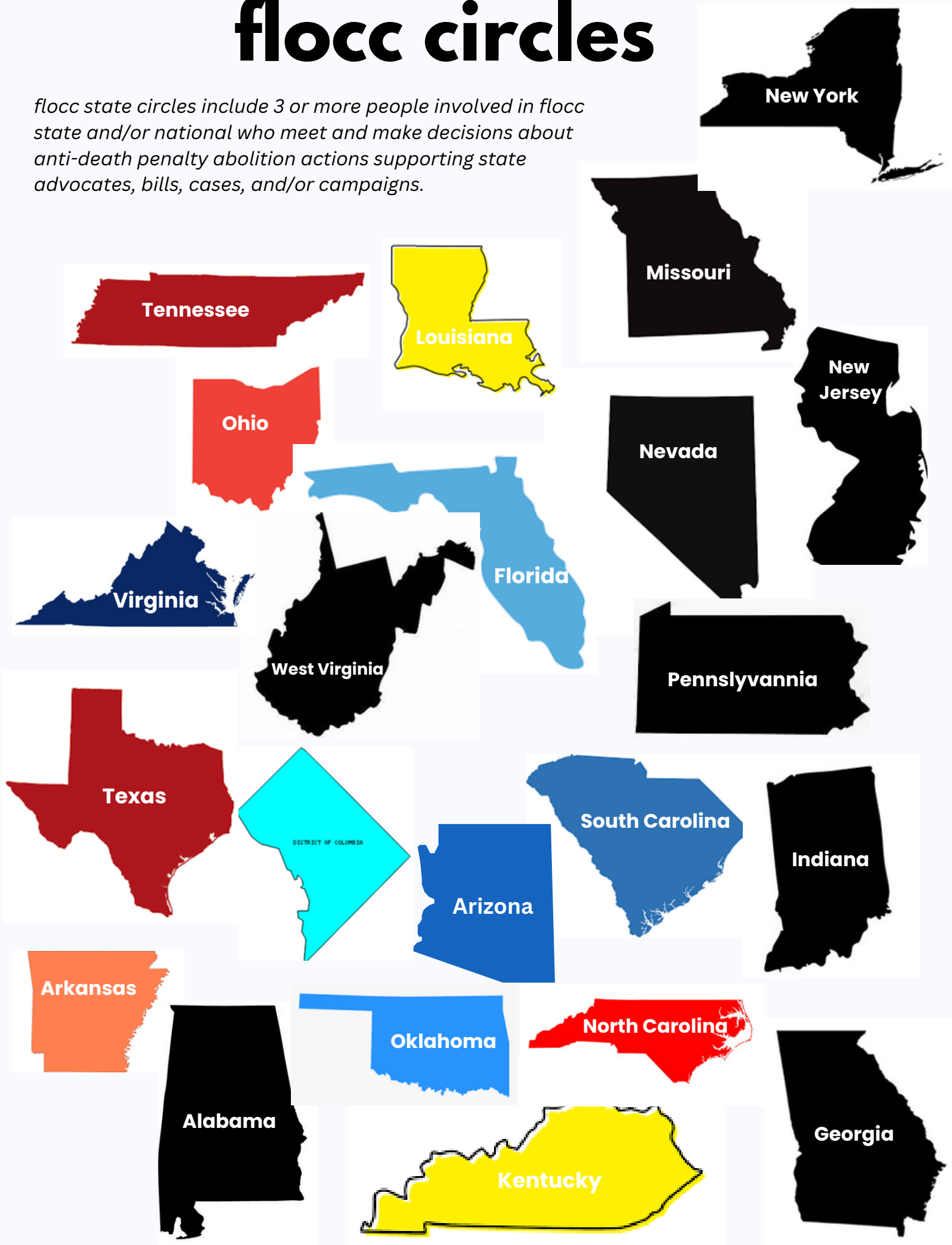


FICPFM, Formerly Incarcerated People & Families Movement

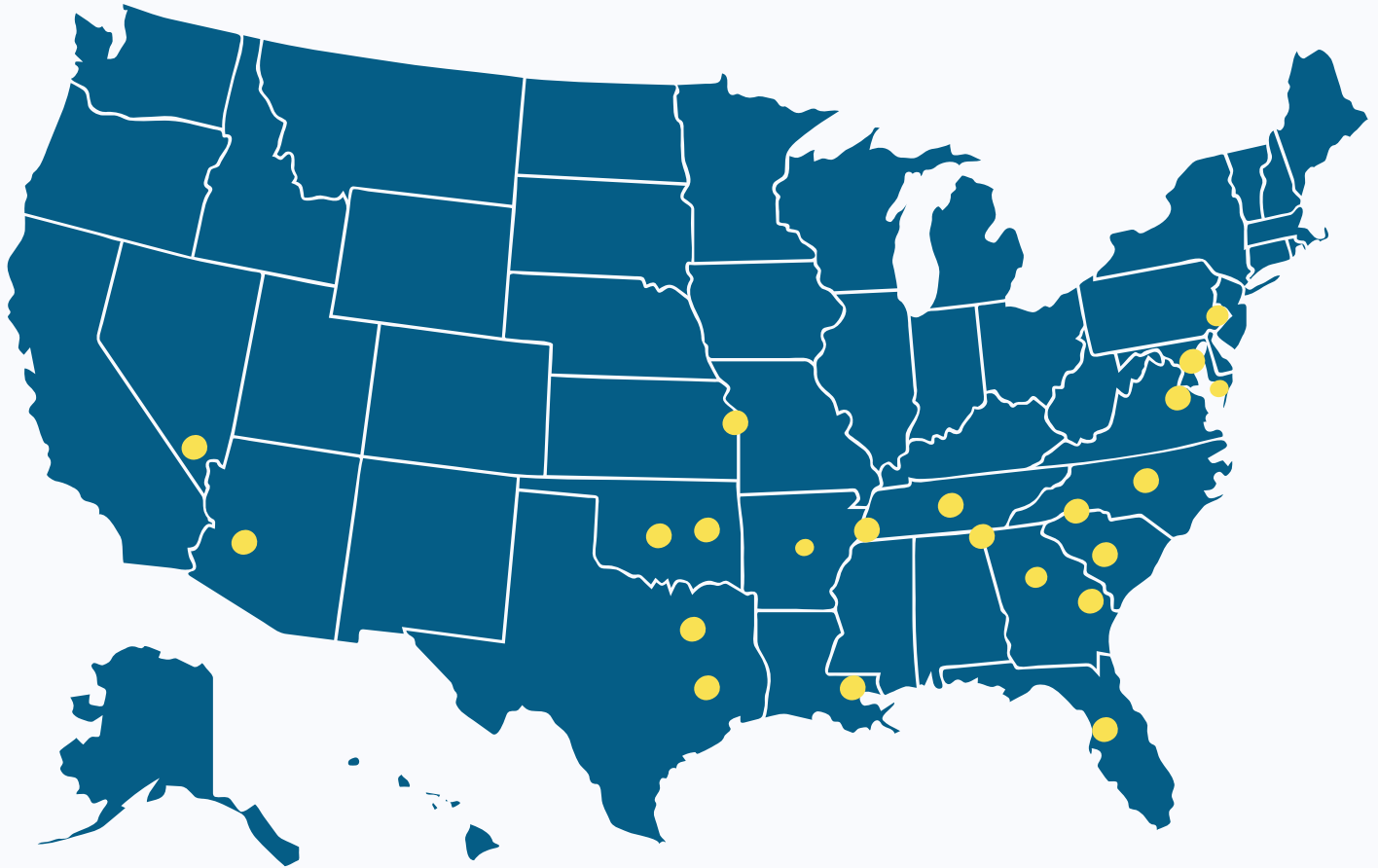
FICPM is a national movement of directly impacted people speaking in their own voices about the need to end mass incarceration. They also speak to America's current racial and economic caste system. They are also committed to transforming our society by confronting the criminal legal system head on. FICPFM works in and with community, to not only ensure alternatives to incarceration and criminalization, but address head on the collateral consequences of living with a conviction by restoring civil rights to those who have had them taken away.

flocc circles

flocc state circles include 3 or more people involved in flocc state and/or national who meet and make decisions about anti-death penalty abolition actions supporting state advocates, bills, cases, and/or campaigns.



National Footprint



Letter from Founder

As we embark on another meaningful year at **The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition** (floc), I am filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to our work. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, influenced policy, and engaged 4 new state and national partners! Our undeniable success is attributed to collaboration, effective organizing strategies and remaining true to our mission.

In 2025, we passed critical legislation in the state of Georgia that resulted in a law that lowers the standard of proof for individuals living with intellectual disabilities facing capital cases to prove their condition more efficiently. We also collected more than 300 clergy signatures in the campaign to save Tremane Wood's life in Oklahoma in a little over two weeks, resulting in his clemency and removal from death row.

We are also proud that we are able to report 200+ volunteer hours from board members, interns, experts, community members and friends who gave of their time and attention to various programs, initiatives and events. We are supported by generous grants, funders, and individuals who offer one-time and monthly donations. Still, we need to activate more major donors and monthly contributors. We plan to focus more deliberately on our financial development in the next 3-5 years.

As we look ahead, we're excited to share plans to welcome graduate fellows, new board members, highlight esteemed clergy partners and support actions that reduce and ultimately eliminate state/federal sanctioned death in our country. We know this work is not easy- we've had many disappointing days and nights, still, we've stayed the course and pushed important and transformational legislation forward.

Thank you once again for believing in floc and standing with us. This work is not linear, but it is pivotal. Thanks for trusting us and most of all, thanks for standing with us another year!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Joia Erin Thornton

Joia Erin Thornton
National Director
The Faith Leaders of Color Coalition/floc
flocjustice.org