

**Prayer**  
**Convention of NAACP**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**Bishop Richard Pates**

I am very happy to be here today with Betty Andrews and all of the members of the NAACP. Our society benefits enormously by your organization as you bring together different elements of our community in the pursuit of justice and peace. Please know of my solidarity and that of the Diocese of Des Moines with you as we join together to achieve these worthy goals.

Let us Pray,

O God, help us to see each individual person as you see them made in your image and likeness and worthy of your eternal love. Allow this vision to guide our relationships with each other linked together as brothers and sisters, in your family, the human family.

In your name give us the courage to pursue justice, to resist every form of discrimination and prejudice, to establish a way of life that responds to the dignity of your children through effective education, good jobs, adequate housing, satisfying nourishment and strong health supported by a fair legal system everywhere.

In this age, may we build bridges between all folks seeking to unify us in peace and community as we responsibly and equitably share the bounty of your creation with respect and compassion for all.

And, today, we ask you to bless our gathering, the food and company we enjoy while enabling us to be particularly attentive to the poor and those at the periphery of society. May your love and presence always bring us comfort and joy.

Amen