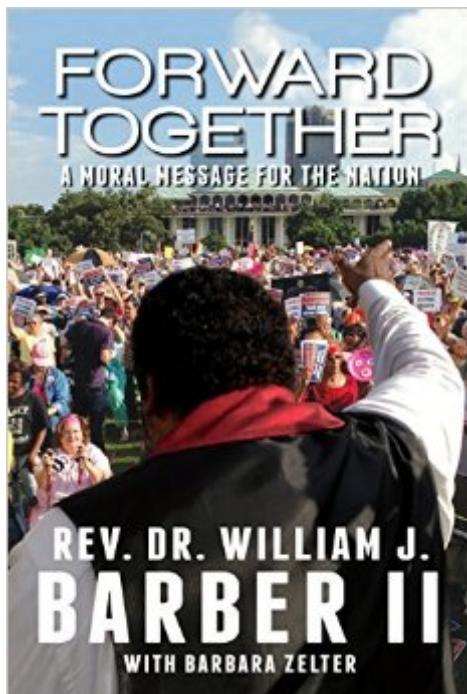


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# Forward Together: A Moral Message For The Nation



## **Synopsis**

In the spring of 2013, seventeen people gathered at the North Carolina state legislature to protest extreme legislation passed by the General Assembly attacking health insurance, unemployment insurance, labor, and voting rights. The ministers, labor, and human rights activists began praying, singing, and chanting, and were ultimately arrested. That group grew into crowds of thousands at successive "Moral Mondays" rallies, and by summer's end nearly 1,000 people had been arrested, making this sustained moral protest one of the largest acts of civil disobedience in U.S. history. The effort grew out of seven years of organizing with more than 160 groups. Rallies continued in 2014, with a "Moral March" of 80,000 people in February. Rev. Dr. William Barber II, a pastor and president of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP, now the largest in the South, became one of the architects of the Forward Together Moral Movement. In a new book, *Forward Together*, Rev. Barber tells the story of a new fusion civil rights movement, a "big tent," in which black and white, gay and straight, rich and poor, old and young, Republicans and Democrats are all welcome. Rev. Barber's sermons/speeches at the protests, many of them collected in *Forward Together*, became the inspiration and rallying cry for a new civil rights movement. North Carolina today is at the epicenter of the political and spiritual crisis affecting 21st-century America. What happens here, says Barber, can shift the center of gravity in the American political discourse. Similar movements are now growing in states around the country. *Forward Together* captures the essence of what it means to preach in the public square.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

The Moral Mondays movement is growing in North Carolina and has inspired parallel developments in other states by uniting Americans of diverse backgrounds in a contemporary fusion movement to expose and resist injustices imposed by political extremists in high places. "Forward Together" features a collection of energetic addresses by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of the North Carolina NAACP and the movement's most prominent figure. Barber's passionate rhetoric calls us away from the "nightmare of regressive public policy and mean oppressive politics" to a just and compassionate social order. He bases his case on the North Carolina and United States constitutions, state and national history, and inclusive appeals to religious and moral beliefs. In the great tradition of non-violent action, he seeks to win over his opponents rather than simply defeat them. "We have to look at public policy through the moral lens of justice for all and the constitutional principle of the common good," Barber says. The Forward Together Moral Movement advocates a breathtaking array of societal goods, all of them under siege by extremists in the North Carolina statehouse and elsewhere:<sup>\*</sup> Secure pro-labor, anti-poverty policies that ensure economic sustainability.<sup>\*</sup> Provide well-founded, quality public education for all.<sup>\*</sup> Promote healthcare for all, including affordable access, the expansion of Medicaid, protection for women's health, and the assurance of environmental justice in every community.<sup>\*</sup> Address the continuing inequalities in the criminal justice system and ensure equality under the law for every person, regardless of race, class, creed, documentation, or sexual orientation.

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