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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greensboro Massacre Commemoration Conference Promotes Dialogue on Causes and Responses to Growth of Racist Violence and Inequality

The upcoming commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Greensboro Massacre will include a daylong educational and cultural conference on Saturday, November 2, to explore the root causes and community responses to the rise in right-wing violence and continuing inequality and social injustice. The conference, hosted by the Beloved Community Center and Bennett College on that school's historic campus in Greensboro, will focus on lessons from the Greensboro Massacre and its aftermath, and their relevance to current calls for a broad-based people's movement for social justice. The conference will open with a video welcome by Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Co-Chair of the national Poor People's Campaign. An intergenerational panel discussion will follow, framing the nature of this period and drawing out lessons from the Greensboro Massacre. Panelists include Rev. Nelson Johnson, Rev. Starsky Wilson, Rev. Naomi Tutu, Ash-Lee Henderson, Dr. Marty Nathan, Rev. Dr. Jerry Taylor, and Flint Taylor.

After lunch, Eastern North Carolina singing ensemble, *Fruit of Labor*, will offer a "Special Musical Tribute to the CWP 5 and Freedom Fighters of Yesterday and Today." (<https://fruitoflabor.org/fruit-of-labor-singing-ensemble>)

In the afternoon, customized sessions convened by leaders in each arena of the movement will offer opportunities to dialogue about the significance of the Greensboro Massacre and what it means for building a broad movement for social justice in the current moment. Session topics include youth organizing and intergenerational solidarity; labor and worker justice; legal and policy work; faith-based work; climate change and environmental justice; countering racism and white supremacy; gender equity and immigration justice; building local power while promoting truth, justice and healing; and cultural work and the arts in building the movement.

The conference is one event in the weekend-long commemoration, which opens on Friday evening with a community reading of Emily Mann's 1996 play "Greensboro: A Requiem", written about the tragic murders of five young activists by KKK and neo-Nazis in Greensboro in 1979. Events also include a performance on Saturday evening following the conference by acclaimed Los Angeles-based dance

company, CONTRA-TIEMPO, presenting their latest work, "joyUS justUS." Sunday will be a day of spiritual observance, with a service at 10AM at Faith Community Church and an Interfaith Worship Service at Shiloh Baptist Church at 3:30 PM, where Rev. J. Herbert Nelson will speak on *"The Role of Church Communities in Today's Quest for Economic, Racial, Environmental and Social Transformation."*

All events are open to the public and admission is free. Space for the community play reading and conference is limited and registration is strongly advised. Free tickets are required for the CONTRA-TIEMPO performance and can be reserved in advance and then picked up at the door by going to <http://www.greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org/greensboro-events/>. Tickets can also be picked up in advance from the A&T Ticket Office. Tickets can also be reserved by calling the Beloved Community Center at 336-230-001. For more details about the conference, information and registration/ticketing for events, visit www.greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org/. For other information, email info@greensboromassacrelessonstoday.org.

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