

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 10, 2013

CONTACT: Tom Fazzini, Rabinowitz/Dorf Communications, 202-265-3000, 202-505-1210,
tom@rabinowitz-dorf.com

New Internet Video Series Provokes New Thinking on Contemporary Issues, Debuts With Discussion on Evangelicals and Social Change

“Summits on Tenth” is a joint project of the Nathan Cummings Foundation and AlterNet

NEW YORK – A new Internet video series featuring conversations that provoke and disrupt conventional thinking on a wide variety of contemporary issues launched today with a discussion about evangelicals and their role in creating social change. The “Summits on Tenth” series is a joint project of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, a leading social change philanthropy known for its willingness to take risks and buck conventional wisdom, and AlterNet, a top online source of independent news and commentary.

The premiere episode, “[Evangelicals Building a Just America](#),” features conversation with two dynamic church leaders who defy the public image of evangelicals, Reverend Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Senior Pastor at Northland Church, and Pastor Michael McBride, Director of PICO National Network’s Lifelines to Healing Campaign. The summit was moderated by Simon Greer, president and CEO of the Nathan Cummings Foundation and narrated by Lynn Parramore, senior editor at AlterNet.

The pastors shared stories of their personal journeys into faith, including the crisis of faith one of them felt after the Martin Luther King, Jr. assassination. They tackled issues of segregation, race and the new, frighteningly common experience of people of faith turning on other faiths out of fear. They encouraged churches to turn outward to their communities instead of turning inward and withdrawing into themselves.

When asked [how he might discuss economic issues](#) – such as the minimum wage – with his congregation, the Rev. Hunter said that instead of advocating for specific policies his goal with his congregants is “to form a character that develops a heart for the poor, develops a heart for the disadvantaged.”

During a discussion about what issues Americans will be surprised to see evangelicals working on in ten years, [Pastor McBride answered](#) that he will be addressing “the explosion of the incarceration of poor people, people of color, not just in our country, but across the world.” He continued, “I think that we have a human rights crisis on our hands and I think, who better to lead that charge than people who serve a God of a second chance?”

“Each Summits on Tenth episode allows us to look at an existing issue through the fresh, new perspective of unconventional thinkers,” said Simon Greer, president and CEO of the Nathan

Cummings Foundation. “Our first episode features a conversation with two evangelical leaders who are challenging the traditional thinking on how evangelicals address social justice issues. By engaging with thought leaders on a wide variety of topics, Summits on Tenth helps us see our world through a new lens.”

“AlterNet is excited to be partnering with the Nathan Cummings Foundation to bring the Summits on Tenth video series to a wide audience,” said Don Hazen, executive editor of AlterNet. “Simon Greer's experiences and insights moderating the dialogues will bring freshness and light to these fascinating conversations. Simon's intense exchanges with those who are on the front lines of ideas, beliefs, and action in our country will be a valuable addition to the public discourse.”

“Summits on Tenth is a wonderful way for the Nathan Cummings Foundation to showcase our grantees,” said Ernest Tollerson, trustee of the board of the Nathan Cummings Foundation. “We are proud of our grantees, and the Summits on Tenth video series is an exciting platform for the foundation to encourage discussion of their new ideas and raise the profile of these new voices.”

Summits on Tenth aims to engage members of the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, the media, field leaders and experts in critical dialogue that challenges views about the priorities, allies and strategies required to build successful movements for social change. The interviews are conducted in front of a live audience at the Nathan Cummings Foundation located on Tenth Avenue in New York City and an edited and complete version of the interviews appears on AlterNet. A new interview will occur every two to three months. The next conversation will examine the controversial natural gas extraction process known as fracking and its role in our energy debate.

The premiere [Summits on Tenth](#) video is available in two formats: [the full 50 minute conversation](#), and a [nine minute collection of highlights](#).

The Nathan Cummings Foundation is rooted in the Jewish tradition and committed to democratic values and social justice, including fairness, diversity, and community. It seeks to build a socially and economically just society that values and protects the ecological balance for future generations; promotes humane health care; and fosters arts and culture that enriches communities. The Foundation's approach to grant making embodies some basic themes in all of its programs: concern for the poor, disadvantaged, and underserved; respect for diversity; promotion of understanding across cultures; and empowerment of communities in need.

AlterNet is a popular independent daily news site with a focus on politics, cultural issues, and the nexus of the political and the personal - as it relates to health, psychology, education, economics, and much more. An average of 4 million readers come to AlterNet each month as measured by Google.

###