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President Trump plans to unveil a new initiative that aims to give faith groups a stronger voice within the federal government and serve as a watchdog for government overreach on religious liberty issues.

He is scheduled to sign an executive order on Thursday (May 3), the National Day of Prayer, "to ensure that the faith-based and community organizations that form the bedrock of our society have strong advocates in the White House and throughout the Federal Government," a White House document reads.

Trump plans to sign the order in a Rose Garden ceremony that is expected to be attended by members of his cabinet and some 200 representatives of religious groups.

The White House said those working on the initiative will provide policy recommendations from faith-based and community programs on "more effective solutions to poverty," and inform the administration of "any failures of the executive

branch to comply with religious liberty protections under law."

The creation of the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative follows the initiatives of previous administrations that created similarly named offices to foster partnerships between the government and religious organizations.

President Obama launched the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, whose work ranged from fighting the Ebola and Zika viruses to feeding schoolchildren nutritious meals in the summertime.

That office, along with similar ones in 13 federal agencies, followed President George W. Bush's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The White House said agencies and executive departments that do not have such offices will have a designated liaison to the new initiative.

Johnnie Moore, a minister and public relations consultant who serves as an unofficial spokesman for a group of evangelicals that often advises Trump, said the new initiative takes an approach different from the previous ones.

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"Ordering every department of the federal government to work on faith based partnerships — not just those with faith offices — represents a widespread expansion of a program that has historically done very effective work and now can do even greater work," he said.

Florida megachurch pastor Paula White, one of the key evangelical advisers to the president, also cheered the new initiative.

"I could not be more proud to stand with President Trump as he continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with communities of faith," she said. "This order is a historic action, strengthening the relationship between faith and government in the United States and the product will be countless, transformed lives."

The White House also said the new initiative will be led by an adviser who will work with faith leaders and experts outside the federal government. Obama's initiative also had an office director with a council of outside experts.