

November 5, 2023

A letter to our Jewish and Muslim friends and colleagues, from members of the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing.

Dear Friends:

We, as members of the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, proclaim our support and love for our Jewish and Muslim colleagues and neighbors. We share their grief at the loss of life after the Hamas attacks of October 7, and we share their grief at the ongoing loss of life in Gaza after Israeli attacks, and we grieve every loss of life across the region. We pray for peace, for an end to suffering and violence.

We are alarmed that the conflict between Israel and Hamas is fueling incidences of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia here at home. As the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, we stand against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in any form. In this local community, our interfaith association has helped us to become friends and partners together in building bonds that cross faiths and cultures. We will stand united against any threats to our Muslim or Jewish friends, against any intimidation or provocation.

Particularly as Christian clergy members of the association, we stand on our scripture, where Jesus, quoting his own scripture, the Torah, says the two greatest commandments are to love God with all one's heart, and with all one's mind, and with all one's strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. (Leviticus 19:17-18 and Matthew 22:37-40) Our faith summons us to this love of neighbor, and to share and bear with them any burdens they must carry.

Signed,

The Rev. Dr. Shawnthea Monroe
Senior Pastor, The Peoples Church
President, Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing

The Rev. Melanie Carey
University United Methodist Church
Vice-President, Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing

The Rev. Alice Fleming Townley
Mission and Justice Coordinator
Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

The Rev. Kristin Stroble
Eastminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson
Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church

The Very Rev. Dr. Donna McNiel
Canterbury MSU/St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Krista Heuett
Assistant Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dawn Christenson
Interim Minister, Bethlehem United Church of Christ

The Rev. Ben Rumbaugh
First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale

The Rev. Ellen Zienert

The Rev. Betsy Aho
Pastor, Haslett Community Church

The Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Ledge

The Rev. Amy Eld Maffeo
Hospital Chaplain, Trinity Health

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott
Pastor, Presbyterian Church of Okemos

The Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Flynn
Rector, St. Michael's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Haley Hansen
Associate Pastor, The Peoples Church

The Rev. Timothy Chon
North Westminster Presbyterian Church

Fr. Jarrod Dillon
Director of Spiritual Engagement, Holy Cross Services

The Rev. Dr. Julie Kilmer
Spirit of Peace
Church of the Brethren

The Rev. Sharon Ketchum

Pastor Carl Ballard
St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Rev. Stanley Jenkins
First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

The Rev. Leslee Fritz
Lansing Grace United Methodist Church

The Rev. Sue Platt
Lansing Grace United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dillon Burns
Pastor, Okemos Community Church

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kirk Miller
First Presbyterian Church of Holt

The Rev. Melissa Congelton
St. Katherine's Episcopal Church