



SCHAUMBURG/HOFFMAN ESTATES CLERGY ASSOCIATION

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SHECA Interfaith Letter supporting religious tolerance

The Schaumburg Hoffman Estates Clergy Association is an ecumenical group of faith leaders that meets monthly to fellowship, learn, and mobilize. Members represent from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish backgrounds.

We believe that interfaith work honors the God who is multi-splendored and wide beyond human comprehension. Though we may have different ways of connecting with God, speaking of God, and understanding God's work and presence in the world, we believe that building relationships with one another and understanding each other promotes sacred peace.

Given the current national climate of fermenting bigotry, we would like to make a statement in particular in support of our Muslim brothers and sisters, to acknowledge and condemn the presence of prejudice in our society, in our congregations and public "Christian" discourse, and proclaim that neither Christianity, nor Judaism, nor Islam should be distorted or exploited for evil purposes.

We denounce the spirit of hatred and fear that spreads lies about Islam and paints a people of peace as perpetrators of violence. We understand that various terrorists proclaim false allegiance to every religion (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, etc.), and that those terrorists desecrate the name of God.

We affirm a spirit of inclusion, love, and tolerance--trusting God to guide us through troubled times, and seeing God's creativity already working in our midst.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amy Aschliman, Christ Community Mennonite Church, Schaumburg, IL

Cantorial Leader Ilana Axel, Beth Tikvah Congregation, Hoffman Estates, IL

Rev. Linda Covey, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Schaumburg

Rev. John W. Dearhammer, Church of the Holy Spirit, Schaumburg, IL

Chaplain Allen Eaton

Pastor Peter Hellstedt, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Schaumburg, IL

Pastor David Lagos-Fonseca, Our Saviour's United Methodist Church, Schaumburg, IL

Rev. Jon Moody, Hope Community Church, Schaumburg, IL

Rev. Julie Peterson, Church of the Cross PC(USA), Hoffman Estates, IL

Pastor Freddie Rogers, Jr, Destiny Church, Hoffman Estates, IL

Janice Kennel Ropp, Congregational Chairperson, Christ Community Mennonite Church, Schaumburg, IL

Dr. Khalid Abdus Sami, Masjid Al Huda, Schaumburg, IL

Rabbi Taron Tachman, Beth Tikvah Congregation, Hoffman Estates, IL

We would like to add an open call to faith leaders of all kinds to join us in our monthly meetings (email amy.aschli@gmail.com). We believe adding to our diversity and knowing you will enrich and transform our faith and our communities. Grace and peace be with you.

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Representing congregations and ministries of the various faith traditions in Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg and immediate surroundings, we recognize that many of the world's great religious traditions are represented in our immediate area. We affirm and celebrate this diversity of religious expressions.

