



San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
Serving our community*

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SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Backyard

August 15, 2017, San Francisco -- First and foremost, we offer our prayers for the victims and the families of the dead in Charlottesville, Virginia and all who were traumatized by the hateful violence that ensued there.

Sometimes when horrific and deadly acts are perpetrated in the name of hate, such as our nation witnessed on August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville, we are tempted to limit those incidents to the context in which they occurred. Charlottesville is a place intimately identified with our nation's painful and divisive Civil War history, and it is easy to think that such an event could only happen in that region of the country. Sadly, what happened in Charlottesville is symptomatic of an unprecedented growth of organized hate in our nation that knows no geographic boundaries. We need look no further than the findings of a recent report published by the Southern Poverty Law Center (<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>) to face the reality that 917 hate groups exist in the United States of America, 79 of which are found in California, and a significant number calling the Bay Area their home.

As statements and vigils decrying acts of hate and violence in Charlottesville flooded social and other media, a group calling itself "Patriot Prayer," actively petitioned to host back-to-back rallies in San Francisco's Crissy Field and Berkeley's Martin Luther King Park on August 26 and 27, respectively. The former is billed as "Patriot Prayer: Free Speech, Unity and Peace San Francisco," the latter, a "No to Marxism Rally."

As people of faith, we stand united to denounce those who use words such as "prayer," "unity" and "peace" to mask any agenda of hate, intolerance, and bigotry. In the days ahead, we will use the voices of faith communities - through prayer, the pulpit, and our communications networks - to educate and inform, and to fight racism, hatred, and bigotry wherever it may occur, particularly in our City of St. Francis. We will not step aside but will stand strong for our values of inclusivity, respect for all persons, and justice.

Kaushik Roy, *Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Rita R. Semel, *Past Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Michael G. Pappas, *Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin, *Resident Imam, San Francisco Muslim Community Center*

Rev. Deborah Alvarez-Rodriguez, *Pastor, Jones United Methodist Church*

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, *Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of California*

Fr. Mesrop Ash, *Parish Priest, St. John Armenian Apostolic Church*

Fatih Ferdi Ates, *Director, Pacifica Institute*

The Rev. Sally Bingham, *President, California Interfaith Power & Light*

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, *Pastor, Third Baptist Church & President, SF Branch-NAACP*

Rev. Angela Brown, JD, *Associate Pastor, GLIDE Memorial United Methodist Church*

Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, *Executive Pastor and Canon for Social Justice, Grace Cathedral*

Rev. Staci Current, *District Superintendent Bay District, CA-NV Annual Conference UMC*

Sister Chandru Desai, *Director, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center, SF*
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, *Lead Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church*
Fred Fielding, *Board President, Interfaith Center at the Presidio*
Rev. Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J., *President, University of San Francisco*
Rabbi Marvin Goodman, *Executive Director Emeritus, Board of Rabbis of No. California*
Rev. Jisan Tova Green, *San Francisco Zen Center*
Iftekhar Hai, *President, United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance*
Deacon G.L. Hodge, *Providence Baptist Church*
The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud, *Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA*
Most Reverend William Justice, *Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of San Francisco*
The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., *Executive Director, United Religions Initiative*
Rev. D. Andrew Kille, *Chair, Silicon Valley Interreligious Council*
Rev. Ronald Kobata, *Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of San Francisco*
Fr. Stephen Kyriacou, *Dean, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral*
Rev. Deborah Lee, *(UCC) Program Director, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity*
Rev. Junchol Lee, *Senior Pastor, San Francisco Swedenborgian Church*
Rev. Dr. James McCray, Jr., *Executive Director, Tabernacle Community Development Corp.*
Rev. Will McGarvey, *Executive Director, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County*
Rev. Jeanelle Nicolas Ablola, *Pastor, Pine United Methodist Church*
Abby Porth, *Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council*
Rev. Scott Quinn, *Executive Director, Marin Interfaith Council*
Rabbi Larry Raphael, *Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Sherith Israel*
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, *Senior Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF*
Moina Shaiq, *President, Tri City Interfaith Council*
Rita Shimmin, *Executive Director, GLIDE Foundation*
Rabbi Beth Singer, *Senior Rabbi, Congregation Emanu-El*
Rabbi Jonathan Singer, *Senior Rabbi, Congregation Emanu-El*
Stephanie Spencer, *President, Eden Area Interfaith Council*
Rev. Sadie Stone, *Pastor, Bethany United Methodist Church*
Swami Tattwamayana, *Minister, Vedanta Society of San Francisco*
Rev. John Weems, *Pastor & Head of Staff, Calvary Presbyterian Church*
Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, *Lead Pastor, GLIDE Memorial United Methodist Church*
The Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Clemens Young, *Dean, Grace Cathedral*
Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf, *Senior Rabbi, Congregation Sherith Israel*

Congregation leaders are encouraged to share this message with their congregants.

For additional information please contact Michael G. Pappas at (415) 425-9631