

MINNESOTA COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES

This morning, just blocks from the Minnesota Council of Churches offices, another Minnesotan, 37-year-old Alex Pretti, was killed by federal law enforcement officers who have occupied our state for weeks.

This death comes less than twenty-four hours after thousands of clergy, lay leaders, union members, and ordinary residents—across religious traditions, cultures, and communities—came together for a day of prayer, fasting, peaceful protest, and a unified call for ICE to leave Minnesota. We gathered seeking peace. We woke to more bloodshed.

We now await the results of what we hope will be a full, official, and joint investigation. But even as facts are gathered, the impact is already clear. As Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said this morning, "This is not sustainable." He is right.

Our neighbors and our neighborhoods are being traumatized. Families are afraid to leave their homes to go to the doctor or buy groceries. Parents are afraid to send their children to school. Fear has settled into the ordinary rhythms of life—and that is not how any community should have to live.

We support the governor's request to the president to remove this force from Minnesota. This is not about politics. It is about human life, community safety, and moral responsibility.

Tomorrow is Sunday. Christians across this state and across this nation will gather in houses of worship. I ask you to join us in lifting united voices to heaven, trusting the promise of scripture in II Chronicles: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Join us as we pray for the violence and oppression to cease.
Join us as we pray for healing to move across our state.

We are praying from a city that feels surrounded—
like Jerusalem encircled by forces greater than its walls—
yet still trusting God to be our refuge in the midst of the shaking.
Like Paul, confined but not abandoned,
pressed in body, yet free in spirit.

And let us be clear: prayer is not passive. Prayer is action.

For those who feel called to do more than pray, there are many faithful ways to act. Call your elected officials. If you are comfortable, join peaceful, collective demonstrations. Consider volunteering as a trained constitutional observer. Care for your neighbors in tangible, everyday ways. Donate your time, talent, and resources. Support immigrant-owned businesses across the Twin Cities that have lost customers and employees because of federal actions. And join the call of faith communities across Minnesota to “Shine a Light for Minnesota”—tonight at 7:00 p.m. (CST)—from your front porch or street corner, standing together with your neighbors.

Above all, remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: “Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

For the Minnesota Council of Churches, this is not about politics. It is about a Biblical mandate—to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, and to declare unequivocally that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, no matter what they look like, where they come from, what faith they practice, or how they arrived.

Stand with us.
Pray with us.
And call for an end to this unprecedented federal law enforcement surge in Minnesota.

Elder Suzanne Kelly
CEO, Minnesota Council of Churches