



PRAYERS FOR PEACE ALLIANCE

Philadelphia Area Christians, Muslims, and Jews

We, the undersigned Philadelphia-area Christian, Muslim, and Jewish clergy and faith leaders, urge our elected representatives, including President Biden and the Pennsylvania congressional delegation, to seek an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza, and pursue through diplomatic means the release of hostages and a future based upon peace, justice, and equal rights for all people in the Holy Land.

The logic of militarism – occupation, siege, and bombardment – has led us to this point. 26,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis have been killed. Gaza's people have had their lives torn apart, with dangerously little access to food, water, medicine, and electricity, and the majority of homes destroyed. Palestinians on the other side of the fence are facing an unprecedented level of repression, whether by Israeli police or settlers. This war is not freeing Israeli hostages still held in Gaza. The trauma of the war will stay with both Palestinian and Israeli society for generations.

The United States government is fueling this violence by continuing to provide the Israeli military with weapons, while refusing to take measures to end the destruction in Gaza and the West Bank. This stands in contrast to the International Court of Justice, which has ruled that Israel must take action to prevent acts of genocide. It is past time for our elected officials to heed the moral call of this moment, and to recognize that continued war-making will lead only to further despair and violence.

We speak as leaders in nonviolent faith traditions, all with our own connections to the land we call Israel and Palestine. We speak also as people of varying ethnic backgrounds, in a country that has its own history of segregation and ethnic discrimination. We understand that the security and self-determination of one people cannot be achieved at the expense of the safety and rights of another people.

An immediate and lasting ceasefire is the only way to prevent more death and destruction. We call on the United States to work towards a diplomatic resolution to this war, prioritizing the immediate release of all hostages and political prisoners. Our elected representatives must live up to their stated values, and pursue a foreign policy rooted in the principles of equality, justice, and peace.

Signed,

1. Bishop Dwayne Royster, *POWER Interfaith & The Society for Faith and Justice*
2. Bishop Patricia A. Davenport, *Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA*
3. Bishop Freeman Miller, *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church*
4. Pastor Alyn Waller, *Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church*
5. Reverend Jerome Glover, *Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church*
6. Imam & Chaplain Ahmet Tekelioglu, *CAIR Philadelphia*
7. Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow, Ph. D., *The Shalom Center*
8. Pastor Ron Tinsley, *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church*
9. Pastor Nes Espinosa, *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church*
10. Pastor Lyllian Velazquez, *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church*
11. Pastor Lynn Parks, *Oxford Circle Mennonite Church*
12. Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, *POWER Interfaith*
13. Imam Naser Al-Shaikh, *Alhidaya Islamic Center*
14. Ibrahim Taman, *Al-Hidayah Islamic Center*
15. Reverend Isaac Miller, *St Simon's, formerly Church of the Advocate*
16. Fr. Sy Peterka, C.M., *St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church*
17. Rabbi Shawn Zevit, *Mishkan Shalom*
18. Ameen (President) Mohammed Shariff, *Center City Mosque - Philadelphia*
19. The Reverend Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director, *American Baptist Home Mission Societies*
20. Rev. David Wesley Brown, *First United Methodist Church of Germantown*
21. Executive Minister Rev Dr Stephen Kriss, *Mosaic Mennonite Conference*
22. Pastor Jonny Rashid, *West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship*
23. Rev. Sharon K Williams, *Nueva Vida Norristown New Life Mennonite Church*
24. Pastor Marta Castillo, *Nueva Vida Norristown New Life Mennonite Church*





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25. Imam Kenneth Pilgrim–Nuriddin, *Philadelphia Masjid*
26. Reverend Jay Bergen, *Germantown Mennonite Church*
27. Rabbi Mónica Gomery, *Kol Tzedek Synagogue*
28. Rabbi Ari Lev Fornari, *Kol Tzedek Synagogue*
29. Rev. Efrain Cotto, *El Mesias United Methodist Church and St. Philip's United Methodist Church*
30. Pastor Julie Hoke
31. Rabbi Rebecca Alpert
32. Pastor Jacob Curtis, *Ambler Mennonite Church*
33. Pastor Michelle Curtis, *Ambler Mennonite Church*
34. Rabbi Alissa Wise
35. Pastor Franco Salvatori, *Mosaic Mennonite Conference*
36. Rabbi Julie Greenberg, *Leyv Ha Ir. Heart of the City*
37. Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy
38. Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg
39. Rev. Judith T. Beck, *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia*
40. Pastor Rose Bender, *Whitehall Mennonite Church*
41. Pastor Aldo Siahann, *Philadelphia Praise Center*
42. Rabbi Lizzie Horne Mozes
43. Pastor Wayne Nitzsche, *Perkasie Mennonite Church*
44. Pastor David Greiser, *Salford Mennonite Church*
45. Waheedah Shabazz-El, *Bawa Muhiyidinn Fellowship*
46. Pastor Brent Camilleri, *Deep Run East Mennonite Church*
47. Pastor Michael Howes, *West Swamp Mennonite Church*
48. Rabbi Linda Holtzman, *Tikkun Olam Chavurah*
49. Pastor Michael Derstine, *Plains Mennonite Church*
50. The Rev. McKinley L. Sims, *UU Church of Mt. Airy*
51. Sandy Short, Administrator, *Philadelphia Masjid*
52. Pastor Sandy Drescher-Lehman, *Methacton Mennonite Church*
53. Rabbi Michael Ramberg, *Swarthmore College Interfaith Center*
54. Pastor Amy Yoder McGloughlin, *Frazer Mennonite Church*
55. Reverend Khader El-Yateem
56. Rev. M. Courtenay Willcox, *Tree of Life Church*
57. Rabbi Meryl Crean
58. Pastor David Tatgenhorst, *United Methodist*
59. Pearlina White, Administrator, *Masjidullah*
60. Pastor Stephen J. McCloskey, *Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship*
61. Rabbi Phyllis Berman, *ALEPH Alliance for Jewish Renewal*
62. Clerk Janet MacColl Nicholson, *Media Friends Meeting*
63. Clerk Yelena Forrester Knežević, *Chester Friends Meeting*
64. Pastor Beth Rauschenberger, *Zion Mennonite Church*
65. Josie Felt, *Rabbinical Student*
66. Reverend Caz Tod-Pearson, *The Simple Way*
67. Pastor Danilo Sanchez, *Ripple Church*
68. Rabbi Shai Gluskin
69. Rev. Jonathan Britt, *First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne*
70. Pastor Shane Claiborne, *Red Letter Christians*
71. Reverend Laura Colee
72. Pastor Timothy Wotring, *Memorial Presbyterian Church*
73. Assistant Minister Mike Todd, *Wentz's United Church of Christ*
74. Rev. Kari Olson, *East Falls Presbyterian Church*
75. Reverend Richard Fernandez, *Tabernacle United Church*
76. Rev. Ashley B. Rossi, *PCUSA*
77. Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell
78. Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, *Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian*
79. Pastor Dave Mansfield, *Vincent Mennonite Church*
80. William O'Brien, Coordinator, *The Alternative Seminary*
81. Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer
82. Clerk Meg Barney, *Providence Friends Meeting*
83. Assistant Clerk Susan Duncan, *Providence Friends Meeting*
84. Clerk Elizabeth McAndrew, *Swarthmore Friends Meeting*
85. Clerk Norman Janes, *Lansdowne Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*
86. Jackson Suplita, *Friends of Philadelphia*
87. Dr. Francisco Burgos, *Executive Director Pendle Hill*
88. Rev. Dr. Kimberlee Johnson, *Fellowship of Women Clergy*
89. Pastor Mike Ford, *Zion Mennonite Church*
90. Rev. Dr. Joyce Penfield, *Akron Episcopal Church*
91. The Rev. Alex Evangelista, *PC(USA)*
92. Pastor Diane Pacione, *Piney Hollow United Methodist Church*
93. Rev. Stephanie Atkins, *Waters Memorial AME Church*
94. Jill W. Sinha, *Chelton Church*
95. The Rev. Jay Broadnax, *Mt. Pisgah AME Church*
96. Teal Ellington, Retired, *the International League of Muslim Women*
97. Clerk Karen Lightner, *Germantown Friends Meeting*
98. Sister Taleah Taylor, President and Chair, *City of Dreams Coalition*
99. Rev. Dr. Tamika Holder, *Calvary Baptist Church of Norristown*
100. Rev. Hendy Matahelemual, *Indonesian Light Church / Mosaic Mennonite Conference / KBN Network*
101. Rev. Samantha E. Lioi, Spiritual Director, *Allegheny Mennonite Conference*
102. Brenda Rich, Former Worship Coordinator, *West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship*
103. Rev. Barbara Ballenger, *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Glenside*
104. Melissa Berkey-Gerard, Spiritual Director, *Germantown Mennonite Church*
105. Rev. Dr. Paul A. McAllister, *Church of God*
106. Richard Lytton, Clerk, *Haverford Friends Meeting*

