



## Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

**IMAM FAIZUL KHAN**

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON AREA

**REV. DR. CAROL FLETT**

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

**REV. ABHI JANAMANCHI**

CEDAR LANE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

**MRS. LUBNA EJAZ**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER

**REV. TERRI M. MURPHY**

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

SILVER SPRING

**MS. CLAIRE E. WAGGONER**

KUNZANG PALYUL CHOLING

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**MR. KERSI SHROFF**

ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

**REV. DR. GARETH MURRAY**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF

SILVER SPRING

**BISHOP CHRISTOPHER J. MATHEWS**

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF

LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**RABBI ABBI SHAROFSKY**

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

**REV. ANNE E. DERSE**

ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EX OFFICIO

**REV. MANSFIELD KASEY KASEMAN**

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY LIAISON

# Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council Statement on Racism

## Black Lives Matter

We, the representatives of diverse faith communities in Montgomery County, Maryland, express our grief and outrage at the systemic racism in our country that has injured communities of color for four centuries and resulted in the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many others. We convey our sorrow and our rejection of the unequal treatment and injustice experienced by black and brown people.

In our congregations, we teach about the history of racism and offer prayers of repentance for our participation in systemic racism and for the apathy that has allowed it to persist.

We declare that black lives matter, and we commit to rise up to challenge and change racism, prejudice, discrimination and oppression wherever they exist within our communities, our county and the nation. We commit to create the just and equal community envisioned in each of our tradition's teachings, which exhorts us to seek justice for all, to respect the dignity of all, and to uphold every human right.

As an interfaith community of action, we recognize and condemn racism and we commit to turn our experiences, learning and effort to concrete action to dismantle racist systems. We commit to help educate and encourage individuals and groups to hold Multicultural Dialogues on Racism and Bias so we can all understand and work to eradicate all forms of racism, bigotry, hatred, bias and intolerance.

We will tackle issues of systemic racism working with the Montgomery County Police Department, Fire and Rescue Service, Health and Human Services, Offices of Community Partnerships and Human Rights, Emergency Management and the public schools. We have nominated candidates to serve on the Montgomery County Policing Advisory Commission and will soon launch another season of our community-based Candid Conversations on Race. We will intensify our work with our elected representatives and community partners to achieve the vision laid out in Montgomery County's Racial Equity and Social Justice Community Engagement Toolkit.

We invite everyone to ask now, "what changes can I make in my life to understand and eliminate racism in our community?"

One County, Many Faiths – Working Together

(240) 447-1715

[interfaith@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:interfaith@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov)

[www.montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org](http://www.montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org)

Faith Community Advisory Council (FCAC)

Montgomery County, MD

June 11, 2020