

Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council's Statement Against Racism

The ancient words of Micah 6:8 remind us: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

The Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council is outraged by the systemic racism that continues to exist in our country. Abuse of power, misuse of authority, and misguided sense of privilege has created a chasm of inequality that pains us and thereby must be the genesis of our collective efforts to improve life for all people.

Our association of diverse faiths stand in solidarity, of one mind and one purpose; Acting justly in decrying racial injustice, not only in regard to George Floyd, but for all people of color. One central precept of our varied religious traditions is that all people are created in the image of God therefore we must act justly and be merciful toward all humanity.

We recognize and walk humbly with God and with those who engage in peaceful protest in honor of the memory of George Floyd and so many others who suffer at the hand of this evil sin called racism. At the same time, we decry the unnecessary looting and violence that denies voices of the peaceful to be heard and not ignored.

Our prayers of healing are with the families of George Floyd and all those whose loved ones have been subjected to similar brutalities. Our efforts will be centered on working towards the dismantling of systemic racism at all levels. Our words must not lay idle, as our hearts and minds will be set on building interracial and further interreligious coalitions with others throughout our Northwest suburban communities and beyond, in the pursuit of eliminating racist policies and pursuing true equality for every person of every color under God's firmament.

Rabbi Lisa Bellows, Congregation Beth Am;
Rabbi Richard Prass, Congregation Beth Am;
Rabbi Morris Zimbalist, Congregation Beth Judea;
Rabbi Ilana Baden, Temple Chai;
Rabbi Emeritus Stephen Hart, Temple Chai;
Cantor Scott Simon, Temple Chai;
Rev. James Andrews, Hope Lutheran Church
Rabbi Eitan Weiner-Kaplow, Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Synagogue
Rev. James Preston, Kingswood United Methodist Church
Pastor Clayton Edwards, Kingswood United Methodist Church
Rev. David Breese, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Rev. Dan Whiteside, St. Mary Parish
Rev. Richard Sztorc, St. Mary Parish
Deacon Dan Georgen, St. Mary Parish
Father Joseph N. Le, St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish
Father Corey Brost, St. Viator House