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Baptist General Convention of Illinois
Buddhist Council of the Midwest
Chicago Board of Rabbis
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Church of God in Christ
Church of the Brethren
Council for Islamic Organizations of
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Greek Orthodox Church
International Council of Community
Churches
Jain Society of Metropolitan Chicago
Orthodox Church in America
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Roman Catholic Church
Salvation Army
Serbian Orthodox Church
Sikh Religious Society of Chicago
Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of
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Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Baptist State Convention
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Community Renewal Society
InterFaith Connect



Response from the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia: August 12, 2017

We, the members of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, add our own voices of lament and outrage to the cry rising up across our nation for peace, justice and healing in the aftermath of the hate-inspired violence, murder, and attempted murder witnessed in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017.

We remember with gratitude and bitter sorrow the victims of this violence. We pray for comfort and hope for the families and friends of those killed and wounded. We affirm with one voice the principles of human dignity, freedom and justice that provide the foundation for social, religious, and civic life in this nation. And we call upon all people of good will, particularly those in positions of leadership, to speak out unequivocally against all ideologies and actions which advocate the ideas of white supremacy, racism, neo-Nazism, and bigotry against Jews, Muslims, and other religious, racial, ethnic, and other minority groups.

The Council of Religious Leaders was born during the civil rights movement, with a commitment to non-violent, constructive social change. As a gathering of the chosen leaders of 40 religious communities, representing nearly six million residents of the Chicago area, our Council continues to live as a witness to the power of honest, respectful, relational engagement between broadly diverse faith traditions. We remain steadfast in our commitment to affirm life and to build bridges of understanding and reconciliation, so that the power of love might shine upon the waste of our wraths and bring peace in our lives, peace in our homes, peace in our neighborhoods, peace in our nation, and peace in the world.

Bishop Wayne N. Miller, President