



Kentucky Council of Churches
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We, the undersigned denominational leaders of the Kentucky Council of Churches, express our deep sorrow and strong condemnation for acts of violence and vandalism toward our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters. We condemn the hate and fear that motivates such disgraceful acts, and call on persons of all faiths to stand together for the love, justice, and peace God intends for all people.

Our sacred texts command that we show mercy and kindness to one another. We do not take this instruction lightly. The recent destruction of gravestones and vandalism to places of worship, and the discrimination and intimidation toward Muslims, testify to our nation's need for redemption and unity. We deplore any contribution Christians have made to disunity through complacency or failure to live what we have been taught by Jesus.

We call on all Kentucky Christians to follow the example of Jesus, who showed love and mercy to all and commanded his disciples to love our neighbors as ourselves. We encourage congregations to reach out to people of other faiths in your communities – get to know them, and find out how you can support them in these times of trial.

May all Kentuckians demonstrate these values of charity and commission and strive to dwell as brothers and sisters across the commonwealth in loving peace.

Signed,

The Rev. Dr. Peggy C. Hinds, Interim Executive Director, Kentucky Council of Churches
The Rev. Kent Gilbert, President, Kentucky Council of Churches
Bishop Jeffrey Leath, 13th Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bishop Darryl Starnes, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
The Rev. Dr. Amariah McIntosh, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Dr. Rhonda Abbott Blevins, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Kentucky
The Rev. J. Gregory Alexander, General Minister, Disciples of Christ
The Rt. Rev. Terry A. White, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
The Rt. Rev. Bruce Caldwell, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Lexington
The Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA
The Rev. John Odom, General Presbyter, Presbyterian Church (USA)-Mid KY
The Rev. Philip Lotspeich, General Presbyter, Presbyterian Church (USA)-Transylvania
The Most Rev. Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville
The Most Rev. John Stowe, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington
The Rev. Tami Coleman, Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
The Rev. Bill McAlilly, Bishop, Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

*African Methodist Episcopal " African Methodist Episcopal Zion " Christian Church in KY " Christian Methodist Episcopal
" Episcopal " Evangelical Lutheran Church in America " Cooperative Baptist Fellowship " Presbyterian Church USA
Roman Catholic " United Church of Christ " United Methodist " Union Church, Berea
Observer-Participants: Friends Meeting Berea/Lexington
Ecumenical Partners: Church Women United*