

Statement on the Killing of George Floyd

We, the below signed members of the Downtown Interfaith Senior Clergy, condemn in the strongest possible terms the May 25th killing by a police officer of an unarmed African American man in Minneapolis.

As leaders of faith traditions that include Judaism, Islam, Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and Humanism, we affirm our common conviction that *all life is sacred* and that every human being is our neighbor, worthy to be loved. Not killed.

Our hearts break, going out to the family and to those in our community who continue to bear the historical brunt of racially-motivated oppression that too often leads to violence and even death. In a press conference, Mayor Jacob Frey phrased it well: "Being black in America should not be a death sentence." We all say amen!

We call for a swift response by city officials and Minneapolis law enforcement leaders, and a deeper addressing of the systemic issues that led to this and similar killings. We say "enough and more than enough!" Law enforcement *must* interact with *all* our neighbors in all our neighborhoods fairly and equally.

Might we finally learn from this most recent tragic incident? We must. We are all called to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Signed,

Imam Makram Nu'Man El-Amin, Masjid An-Nur

Rev. Dr. David Breeden, First Unitarian Society

Rev. Dr. Dan Collison, First Covenant Church

Rev. Jen Crow, First Universalist Church

Rev. Dr. Laurie Feille, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Imam Dr. Hamdy El-Sawaf Islamic Community Center of Minnesota/Masjid Al-Imin

Rev. Dr. Tim Hart-Andersen, Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Very Reverend Paul Lebens-Englund, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

Rev. Dr. Paula Northwood, Plymouth Congregational Church

Rev. Peter Nycklemoe, Central Lutheran Church

Rev. Judy Zabel, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church

Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman, Temple Israel