

ICA of GL statement:

A letter to our Jewish and Muslim friends and colleagues, from members of the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing.

Dear Friends:

We, as members of the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, proclaim our support and love for our Jewish and Muslim colleagues and neighbors. We share their grief at the loss of life after the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, and we share their grief at the ongoing loss of life in Gaza after Israeli attacks, and we grieve every loss of life in the region. We pray for peace, for an end to suffering and violence.

We are alarmed that the conflict between Israel and Hamas is fueling incidences of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia here at home. As the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, we stand against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism in any form. In this local community, our interfaith association has helped us to become friends and partners together in building bonds that cross faiths and cultures. We will stand united against any threats to our Muslim or Jewish friends, against any intimidation or provocation.

Particularly as Christian clergy members of the association, we stand on our scripture, where Jesus, quoting his own scripture, the Torah, says the two greatest commandments are to love God with all one's heart, and with all one's mind, and with all one's strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. (Leviticus 19:17-18 and Matthew 22:37-40) Our faith summons us to this love of neighbor, and to share and bear with them any burdens they must carry.