



For Immediate Release
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JOINT STATEMENT ON THE VANDALISM AT MOUNT CARMEL CEMETERY

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, representing more than 2.5 million people in the Greater Philadelphia area, and the Interfaith Center stand with Mount Carmel Cemetery and Jewish communities throughout our region, saddened that they have been victims of vile acts of vandalism to a sacred place of rest as well as menacing threats to their schools and community centers. Acts such as these are dangerous, painful, and discouraging to the positive, interfaith society that we hope to foster and build together. In the face of such bigotry and violence, our mission and vision for this region will not be deterred, and these acts only serve to reaffirm our commitment to create peace and understanding among our diverse faith communities. We invite the citizens of our region to join us in our pledge:

I commit as an individual.

To promote peace in my home and community.

I commit to work with others to eliminate the causes of hatred.

To honor dignity of all people.

To lay down our weapons.

And to find non-violent solutions when tempted to hurt another.

I commit to be an instrument of God's peace.

To make my home and neighborhood zones of peace, free of fear, filled with respect, and marked by deeds of kindness.

Founded in 2004, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia advances mutual trust, understanding, and cooperation among faith communities, in order to work together for the common good of the region, www.interfaithcenterpa.org. Chair of the Board is The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan, Dean of the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, formed in 2006 to unite religious leaders, to build relationships of mutual support, to offer a moral and spiritual voice and to take action on issues of critical concern in our region. Staffed by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, the RLC represents more than 30 religious traditions and denominations within our community. It is led by Co-Conveners Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rabbi David Straus, Imam Anwar Muhaimin and Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat. Please visit us at www.interfaithcenterpa.org/rlc.