



The Rev. Erin Tamayo
Executive Director
Arizona Faith Network
reverintamayo@gmail.com
(602) 561-5483

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
12/21/2016**

Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman
Arizona Faith Network Board of Directors
rabbibonnie@rabbisharfman.org
(602) 391-3079 (Not to be published)

**145 FAITH LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF FAITH SIGN
“UNITING FAITHS OF AMERICA” STATEMENT**

*Pledging to actively stand against hate and promote peace in uncertain times
(Pictures and Press Release at <http://www.azfaithnetwork.org/uniting-faiths-of-america-campaign>)*

*Pictures can also be downloaded at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/snyqin2qqkn607l/AAAF7K5wO-6Jt4WFFHAdNUa6a?dl=0>*

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, DECEMBER 21, 2016 – In response to a significant rise in hate crimes and hate-filled rhetoric taking place across our country and appearing on social media over the past 18 months, as reported by the FBI and law enforcement, 144 Arizona faith leaders and people of faith signed a statement of solidarity to promote peace, respect, and understanding, entitled “Uniting Faiths of America” (see statement and signatories below).

The statement was written by members of the “Faith in Solidarity” group organized by the Arizona Faith Network (AFN) under the leadership of executive director Rev. Erin Tamayo. Signatories come from across the religious, political, and racial-ethnic landscape of Arizona to promote the value of diversity and understanding, working for peace, and standing against hate.

“We are at a key time in our country's history,” Rev. Tamayo said, “where we must come together in solidarity and demonstrate that as people of different faiths, we stand together in our diversity. While the lack of understanding has led to hate and violence, we choose to express our commitment to stand with one another in order to promote understanding and peace. No one of us should have to face hate or inequity alone. For this reason, we have chosen to covenant together in mutual support.”

Under the “Uniting Faiths of America” banner, faith communities will also be coming together for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk in Phoenix on January 16, 2017.

ABOUT ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK – The mission of Arizona Faith Network is to bring together people of faith, under the inspiration of God, as a bridge to understanding and action. We dedicate our mission to building understanding between people through

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education and dialogue; we dedicate ourselves to action through inviting people of different faiths to work together for a better world, one based on the virtues of peace, respect and justice.

For more information go to <http://www.azfaithnetwork.org/uniting-faiths-of-america-campaign>

UNITING FAITHS OF AMERICA
#unitingfaiths

Sign-on Statement:

At this key time in our country’s history, we choose to demonstrate solidarity, peace, and commitment to one another. We choose to model positive interaction and cooperation between people of different faiths, creeds and backgrounds and in so doing, hope to influence public discourse and action in a way that serves the common good.

Our nation has been experiencing troubling and frightening increases in hate crimes. Whether these crimes are committed on the basis of religion, race, immigration/ refugee status, or any other distinguishing factor, we vow to stand with one another when these incidents take place.

We pray for a society based on love, acceptance and respect for all humanity. As we work for that day, we promise to stand by one another in mutual support as we acknowledge the inherent dignity of every human being. We pledge to promote understanding and peace with a commitment to justice in our community. By signing below, we enter into this covenant with one another.

The Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith, The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona
Bishop Thomas Olmsted, Catholic Diocese of Phoenix
Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman, Jewish
Imam Ahmad Shqeirat, Islam
Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Church
The Rev. Erin Tamayo, Arizona Faith Network, Executive Director
Imraan Siddiqi, Muslim, CAIR-AZ
The Rev. Eric Ledermann, University Presbyterian Church, Tempe
Bishop Stephen S. Talmage, Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
of America
The Rev. Al Gephart, Presbyterian Church (USA)
The Rev. Gary McCluskey, University Lutheran Church/Lutheran Campus Ministry,
Tempe
Terry Pizzi, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Tempe
Executive Director Lori Riddle, Gila River Alliance for a Clean Environment
Elder Tom Haines, Phoenix Friends Quaker Meeting
Rabbi Dean Shapiro, Temple Emanuel of Tempe
Anne Harrod
Mark Stambaugh, Unitarian Universalist

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Rebecca Bond, Desert Palm United Church of Christ, Tempe
Gail Bird, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Tempe
Pastor Edward, Walsh, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Tempe
The Rev. Dorothy Wellington, Just God Academy
The Rev. Jan Trulock, Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
Dave Wells, Society of Friends (Quakers)
Adia Brown, Islam
The Rev. Prior Chad Sundin, OSBCn, Episcopal Campus Ministries at ASU, St.
Augustine's Episcopal Parish
The Rev. Dr. Jeffery Gallen, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Goodyear
Beverly Workmon, Valley Unitarian Universalist
Madeline Dolgin, Hillel Jewish Student Center at ASU
The Rev. Rock Fremont, Central United Methodist Church/AFN Board
Willa Cree, Unitarian Universalist
Billie K. Fidlin, Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Church
Rabbi Jeremy Schneider, Temple Kol Ami, Scottsdale
Jeanie Ghan, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Tempe
Huda Khalife, Muslim Students Association, ASU
The Rev. Susan, Frederick-Gray, Unitarian Universalist
Tirzah Heywood, Temple Emanuel of Tempe
The Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix
Samantha Hill, Sun Devils Are Better Together (SunDABT)
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth King, The Episcopal Church USA
Phebe Packer, Orangewood Presbyterian Church, Phoenix
Mona Said, Muslim Students Association, ASU
Naeem Abdullah
Chris Cruz, Islamic Community Center of Tempe
Mary Dawes, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Phoenix
Ruling Elder Teri Conrad, Crosswinds Presbyterian Church, Phoenix
Senior Leader Gabriel Kwany, Emmanuel Sudanese Church
The Rev. Charlotte Strayhorne, Casa de Cristo Church & Apostolic Center
Oscar De Los Santos, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Cetin Akkaya, Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue
Lucinda Michels, Presbyterian Church (USA)
The Rev. Sue Ringler, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Ecumenical Catholic
Communion, Tempe, Vicar of the Southwest Region of the Ecumenical Catholic
Communion, AFN Board Member
Dave Hulin, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix
Rabbi Dr. Smuly Yanklowitz, Arizona Jews for Justice
The Rev. Scott Stein, Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Payson
Scott Cowan, Religious Society of Friends
The Rev. Dr. Judy Winkelpleck, Mission del Sol Presbyterian Church, Tempe
Nancy Splain, Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ, Arizona Interfaith
Movement
Jo Vredenburg, Desert Palm United Church of Christ, Tempe
Joyce Vincent, Church of the Beatitudes
Carol Lee Smith, Desert Palm United Church of Christ, Tempe

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Cynthia Mudd, World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training Organization (WHEAT)
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Lentz, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Timothy Schmaltz, Catholic/United Church of Christ
Penelope Davis, AZ Foundation for Contemporary Theology
Genie Zavaleta, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, Guadalupe
James Robbins, Shadow Rock United Church of Christ, Phoenix
Pat Kurtz, United Church of Christ
The Rev. Alan Whaley, Mennonite Church USA
The Rev. Thomas Dunham, Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, ELCA, Tucson
Robert Longoni, Jr., Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Ecumenical Catholic
Communion, Tempe
Gloria Lien, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West
Dr. Katherine Hirschboeck, PhD, Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Parish Tucson &
National Catholic Climate Ambassador for catholicclimatecovenant.org
Dr. Grania Marcus, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Maria Dixon, Unitarian Universalist
The Rev. Dr. Deacon, Robin, Hollis, St. James Episcopal Church, Tempe, Episcopal
Diocese of AZ
Khalid Munir, Muslim
Nancy Nielsen, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler
Eileen Garces, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler
Carol Bennett, Catholic
The Rev. Tully M. Fletcher IV, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Maddie Shaner, University Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maha Elgenaidi, Islamic Networks Group (ING)
Barbara Quijada, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler
Janet Nash, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler
Rachel Sondgeroth, Sun Devils Are Better Together, ASU
Gay Samuelson, St Teresa of Ávila Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Phoenix
The Rev. Lara Forbes, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phoenix
The Rev. Richard Doerrer-Peacock, United Church of Christ
Deacon John Meyer, Roman Catholic
Evelyn Martin, Christian
Naeema Zaman, Islamic Center of the East Valley
Mozhgan Kimble, Baha'i
Canon Richard, Morrison, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona
The Rev. Patricia Reed, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Phoenix
The Rev. Janessa Chastain, Grace United Methodist Church, Mesa
Mehmet Azmaz, Anatolia Cultural Centers, Phoenix Branch
Imam Sabahudin Ceman, Islamic Center of North Phoenix, Community of North
American Bosniaks
The Rev. Jimmy Farley, Church of the Nazarene/ Arizona State University
Bahney Dedolph, Christian
The Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Scottsdale
Emrys Staton, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
Viridiana Hernandez, Center for Neighborhood Leadership
Tamera Zivic, World Hunger Education, Advocacy & Training Organization (WHEAT)

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The Rev. Kate Lehman, St Teresa of Ávila Ecumenical Catholic Communion, Phoenix
Maria Hernandez, Islamic Community Center of Tempe
Chaplain Tom Chapman, Episcopal Church/AFN
Ruling Elder Dan Abbott, University Presbyterian Church, Tempe
Ann Connolly, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Ecumenical Catholic Communion,
Tempe

The Rev. Doug Bland, Community Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tempe

The Rev. Kega Nasios , Disciples of Christ

The Rev. Elice Higginbotha, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Andy Burnette, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Chandler

Marian Willis, Jewish, Temple Emanuel of Tempe

Azra Hussain, Islamic Speakers Bureau of Arizona

Pastor Ron Godfrey, A Beacon in the Desert

Muhammad Al-Rokh, Islamic Community Center of Tempe

The Rev. Deacon Dorothy Saucedo, Tempe Interfaith Fellowship

Deacon Candidate Joan Crawford, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Ecumenical
Catholic Communion, Tempe

Shahzad Amjad, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Rabbi Dr. Robert Kravitz, Board of Rabbis of Greater Phoenix

Nannette Lawson, Dayspring United Methodist Church, Tempe

Nancy Griffin, OUUC

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Smith, Encanto Community Church, United Church of Christ,
Phoenix

Terry Pizzi, Guardian Angels Catholic Community, Ecumenical Catholic Communion,
Tempe

Anthony Kamson, Baha'i Faith

Sulastri Pardani, Muslim student Association

The Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe, Presbyteries of Grand Canyon and de Cristo, Presbyterian
Church (USA)

Elaine Pope, M.Div., Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal), Tempe

The Rev. Michael Diskin, President of AFN, Director for Ecumenism and Interreligious
Affair, Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

The Rev. Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr., First Institutional Baptist Church, Phoenix

The Rev. Al Beasley, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Scottsdale

The Rev. Javier Olivares, Cross Roads United Methodist Church, Phoenix

The Rev. James Pennington, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Phoenix

The Rev. José Olagues, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Jim Kinney, Baha'i

The Rev. Rebekah Krevens, Foothills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Glendale

Rev. Fr. Zacharia Saribekyan, St. Apk'ar Armenian Apostolic Church of Arizona

Rana Singh, Sikh

Sikh Minister, Gurukirn, Khalsa, Sikh Dharma of Phoenix

The Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona Network

Jaswant Singh Sachdev, Sikh Community

Dr. Sohrab Gandomi, PhD, Baha'i Faith

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Special Thanks to Tovrea Carraro Society, operators of Tovrea Castle at Carraro Heights for welcoming Arizona Faith Network to take pictures.

Faith Leaders can Continue to sign on at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MDjQxpDH0HIFv2mnjAMh7p9dw-goWHohUYas_Lv0jBA/edit