

GLENVIEW CLERGY ASSOCIATION
GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS
STATEMENT ON THE CRISIS IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)

We, the undersigned members of the Glenview Clergy Association, recognize that no public statement is adequate to address the tragic situation in Israel and Palestine. However, as leaders within the Abrahamic Faiths, we wish to express our empathy and solidarity with those who are heartbroken and outraged.

As religious leaders, we recognize that God is the Giver of life and that every human being is a person of sacred worth. Therefore, we categorically condemn the killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

We affirm the human rights of all people be they Israeli or Palestinian. Therefore, we condemn the taking of Israeli hostages by Hamas.

We affirm Israel's right to defend itself, yet we also condemn the retaliatory violence that has severely impacted Palestinian civilians living in Gaza. Therefore, we urge the Israeli and Egyptian governments to allow desperately needed supplies into Gaza and to allow innocent civilians to safely leave Gaza to seek refuge in Egypt under United Nations supervision.

We are alarmed at the domestic and global rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia associated with this crisis. Therefore, we unreservedly condemn any form of antisemitic or Islamophobic expression, action, or violence.

The crisis in Israel and Palestine reminds us that we cannot indulge in dehumanizing others. Even in the midst of unimaginable loss, we must allow for grief and mourning. We must also struggle to defend the dignity of all people.

As religious leaders, we strive to put into practice the moral courage that grounds all of our faith traditions. We are committed to doing all we can to exchange fear for compassion, hatred for sympathy, apathy for commitment, and arrogance for humility wherever we find these moral demands.

We call upon all people of goodwill to pray for peace in the Holy Land and its peoples.

November 8, 2023

Rev. Elmo K. Acton, Assistant Pastor, Glenview New Church

Rev. Fr. Richard Andrews, Protopresbyter, Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview

Rev. Jeremiah Boland, Pastor, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Glenview

Very Rev. Dennis C. Callan, SVD, Superior Delegate, North American Provinces, Society of the Divine Word

Rev. Eun-Hye Choi, Pastor, Glenview United Methodist Church

Rabbi Steve Hart, Jewish Faith Leader, Children of Abraham Coalition

Rabbi-Cantor Nancy Landsman, Congregation Avahat Olam, Glenview

Rev. Isaac Lara, Pastor, St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Parish, Glenview

Pastor Abigail Lutz, Pastoral Resident, Glenview Community Church

Rev. Dr. James M. Matarazzo, Jr., Senior Minister, Glenview Community Church

Dr. Shirley Paulson, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Glenview

Rev. Mark Pendleton, Senior Pastor, Glenview New Church

Rev. Paul Peterson, Interim Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenview