



For Immediate Release: Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Stands in Solidarity with the Jewish Community in the Face of Tragedy and Condemns Anti-Semitism

Washington, D.C. - October 28, 2018

Once again, we are reminded of the terrible consequences of hate and prejudice. This time by the deadly attack upon the worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. As this is being written, it is reported that 11 people have been murdered and a number wounded, including police officers. We at Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) join with others in assuring our Jewish sisters and brothers of our solidarity with them, and our condemnation of those who exercise their hate by seeking to diminish others, even unto death.

The cry, "This must never happen again," no longer suffices as a response to murderous hate, in this case the hatefulness of anti-Semitism. It has been used far too often, and "it" tragically does happen again and again. It happens when hate and prejudice become mechanisms for permission to see others as lesser beings who can be done away with. It happens when people in leadership enjoy acceptance by being instruments of provocative and divisive language and behavior, making it tolerable to deny the dignity and humanity of others. It happens when others are perceived as threats to a person's or a group's status and authority. It happens when "good people" keep silent while hearing fellow children of God denigrated with mean and hateful language.

We call upon President Trump and all in authority to use their words and exercise their deeds, not to encourage acts of violence, but to promote the dignity of all. And, we remind ourselves and others that we are the grass roots agents called to confront hate and prejudice with word and action by affirming that all people are created in the image of God and we are responsible for confronting hatefulness and prejudice. This will be a true and living memorial to those who were killed and wounded at the Tree of Life Synagogue; a memorial that is ours to offer.

Written by The Very Reverend William B. Lane

Shared with permission from Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace (DCMEP)

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Contact:

Katie McRoberts

katie@cmeep.org

Ph. 202-543-1222

Formed in 1984, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) is a [coalition of 27 national church denominations and organizations](#), including Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions. It works to encourage U.S. government policies that actively promote a just, lasting and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ensuring security, human rights and religious freedom for all people of the region. [Click here to unsubscribe](#).

media@cmep.org | 202-543-1222 | Fax 202-543-5025
110 Maryland Avenue NE | Suite 311 | Washington, DC 20002

