



Grieving for attacks on places of worship

March 19, 2019

Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace (DCMEP) is in solidarity with the Muslim community of Delaware in this time of horror and grief brought about by the terror attack on the mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

At least forty-nine people were murdered as they gathered in prayer and worship. The white supremacist who took their lives targeted them because they were Muslim immigrants. We have once again experienced the slaughter of men, women and children congregating in places of worship. A church in Charleston, South Carolina, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and now mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand are no longer places of sanctuary, rather targets for hate.

The people who left their homes in Christchurch, never to return, set out to do what so many of us do on Fridays through Sundays: They set out to be in fellowship with others as they worshiped the Lord their God.

Our prayers are indeed offered for those murdered in Christchurch as well as their families and community. We grieve for them, and we grieve that once again hate and bigotry have been served by an awful act of terror.

We are mindful of the words of the poet: "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." It tolls for this denial of our common humanity.

William B. Lane, Chair, Delaware Churches for Middle East Peace