# A STATEMENT OF PEACE
# FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITIES OF
# WASHINGTON COUNTY, MD

The human family is an organic oneness that is acknowledged in all the major religions of the world. And that oneness is strongly evidenced in the sacred books of all the major religions, i.e., that love of God and love of others are paramount. Such original unity needs strong emphasis today, for it is this love in action that cuts across the differences of race, ethnicity, creed, color, or nationality.

As fear and violence have invaded the human family, pitting brothers and sisters against one another, and as war has become the final option for many and peace of secondary emphasis, we clergy and laity of the faith communities of Washington County, Maryland openly and boldly declare that ...

- We are all of one human family;
- We believe that the differences of race, ethnicity, creed, color, and nationality are a part of our oneness, not in opposition to it;
- We believe that all religious and cultural differences are to be respected rather than contested;
- We believe that the definition of neighbor includes anyone anywhere, not merely an amicable friend next door.

And because of these beliefs, we now call upon all people in our religious communities to

- cease forwarding any words, actions, and religious declarations that degrade and demonize another religion;
- halt all religious rhetoric that attacks another's beliefs and/or faith practices; and
- seek to understand and love one another.

Signing your name witnesses your personal willingness to share unashamedly with all.

| **Name** | **Congregation/organization, if applicable** (Your signature does not represent an endorsement either for or by your faith community) | **Date** |
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