

**Interfaith Statement in Support of
Tempe Islamic Community Center
April 15th, 2016**

Amid the horrific and offensive event that happened outside the Tempe Islamic Community Center of Tempe on Friday April 10th, we as the faith community would like to express our complete concern and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in faith. The incident included men carrying hateful signs yelling at people attending the mosque, ripping the Quran, throwing it on the ground and spitting on it. This incident is against all that we believe in, and we make this statement as followers of different faiths, each lifting up the sacredness of our scriptures and the holiness of our faith communities.

In a world where religious pluralism continues to grow, we call for all people to refrain from hateful speech or acts such as those suffered by our Muslim brothers and sisters last week. We must promote peace and solidarity with a strength that will weaken any effort meant to bring intimidation or a sense of insecurity to a community rooted in deep religious principles.

We call not only on the faith communities but on our local community as a whole to stand up to anyone who uses hateful speech to try to provoke violent actions. We are stronger together and only solidarity will be able to triumph against such a horrific event. For this reason, we call on each of us to join in voice and in prayer to say that this must stop. We express our deep concern and also our friendship as we reach out to Imam Ahmad

Shqeirat and the Islamic Community Center of Tempe in solidarity.

Sincerely:

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata- Resident Bishop Desert Southwest Conference- The United Methodist Church

Bishop Stephen S. Talmage- Bishop Grand Canyon Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America- Board Member Arizona Faith Network

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer- Conference Minister- Southwest Conference United Church of Christ- Board Member Arizona Faith Network

Dennis Williams- Regional Minister and President Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arizona

Rev. Dr. Ken Brown- District Executive- Pacific Southwest District- Unitarian Universalist Association

The Rev. Canon Richard N. Morrison, Canon for Ecumenical and Community Relations, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona- Board Member Arizona Faith Network

Rev. Michael L. Diskin- Director for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs- Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix- Arizona Faith Network Board President

Rabbi Bonnie Sharfman- Congregation Kehillah

Rev. Erin Tamayo- Executive Director- Arizona Faith Network

Billie K. Fidlin- Director of Outreach- Desert Southwest Conference UMC- Arizona Faith Network Board Vice President

Rev. Doug Bland—Tempe Community Christian Church, Tempe, Arizona- Board Member Arizona Faith Network



Rev. James Pennington- Pastor First Congregational Church
UCC

Rev. Eric Ledermann- Pastor University Presbyterian Church

Rev. Susan Frederick- Gray- Lead Minister, Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Phoenix

Rev. Linda Lawrence, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
Phoenix

Rev. Rock Fremont- Lay Academy Coordinator Southwest
Conference UCC

Rev. Charles Aurand- Shepherd of the Hills UCC- Phoenix, AZ

Pastor Sarah Stadler- Ammon- Grace in the City ELCA

Dan Sagramoso- Member, Board of the Church & Society- Desert
SW Conference of the United Methodist Church

Sarah King- Earth Care Commission Chair and Board Member of
Arizona Faith Network

Pastor Charlotte Strayhorne- Casa de Cristo Church

Rev. Stephen Govett- Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church,
Phoenix, Arizona

Mark A. Coryell- Awatukee Bahai Community

Nancy K. Splain- Attorney at Law (retired)

Jo Vrendenburg- Convener of the Justice and Witness Ministry
Team- Desert Palm United Church of Christ- Tempe, AZ

Rev. Patti Aurand- Sheperd of the Hills UCC, Phoenix, AZ

Winifred Keefer- Member of St. Francis of the Foothills, UMC,
Tucson, AZ

Dan Abbott- University Presbyterian Church- Tempe, Arizona

Gene Hill- Flagstaff Federated Community Church- UMC Board of
Church and Society

Rev. Adero C E Allison- Casa de Cristo Church- Phoenix, AZ



Rev. Andy Burnette- Senior Minister- Calley Unitarian Universalist
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Joan Grey- University Presbyterian Church- Tempe, AZ

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Beatitudes- Phoenix, AZ

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Joan Butler- Desert Palm United Church of Christ- Tempe, AZ

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Diane Wilson- member St. Francis in the Foothills United
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Rev. Jessica Goad- Pastor Flagstaff Federated Community
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Rev. Tina Marie Rees- United Methodist Pastor

John and Amanda Horan- Members of University Presbyterian
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Kathy Melamed- Unitarian Universalist

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Rev. Karen Spencer- Barnes

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Dr. David Wilkinson- Retired United Methodist Pastor

