

PEOPLE OF FAITH UNITED

for

RECONCILIATION, JUSTICE AND PEACE

We, leaders of the metropolitan Detroit Jewish, Muslim, Christian and other faith communities, are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life in the terrorist attacks upon our country. We are appalled by the devaluation of human life however and wherever it occurs, whether in terrorist attacks, ethnic struggles or in the racism and intolerance sometimes evident in our own society.

All of those who lost their lives in the September 11th attacks, the thousands still missing and their loved ones are constantly in our remembrance and our prayers.

In such a time as this, it is tempting to seek revenge; but that impulse too soon becomes an exercise in degradation that, in turn too often leads to violence for the sake of violence. That is not the answer to the events of September 11. The answer lies in patient efforts to seek appropriate justice for the perpetrators, to channel the natural human emotions of fear and anger into corporate works of courage that will build up the moral fiber and fabric of our beautifully diverse people. In this way, we may become an example of wholeness to a broken world, a light to the nations.

In the Name of the One God, we call upon the members of our mosques and masjids, synagogues, temples and churches - especially at this critical time in our national and international life - to reach out to each other across ethnic and religious traditions and embrace the common goals of reconciliation, justice and peace.