



North Dare Ministerial Association

An open letter to religious leaders of Dare County:

Dear colleagues in faith,

We live in a moment of sustained and rising hostility and violence directed toward Jews.

From the White Nationalist rally in Charlottesville in 2017 to the horrific massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018; from shootings and assaults upon Jewish people and their property to Nazi symbols and rhetoric on display at the Capitol Building Insurrection of January 6, 2021; from explicit statements to coded threats by public figures in recent weeks, antisemitic rhetoric and action has been on display and on the rise. Many people in communities across the nation including our own can recount such incidents, and many of us have Jewish friends or family who are increasingly afraid.

As religious leaders and committed people of faith, we call on members of every religious community and all people of conscience not just to refrain, but to condemn antisemitism in word and deed, whether it is expressed in low-level stereotyping and hostility or in acts of violence against Jews, their religious communities, their religious observations, and their property. We also encourage our Christian siblings in particular to consider ways in which our language and our use of scriptures may contribute to a sense of Christian centrality and supremacy that invite contempt and violence towards the Jewish faith and all Jewish people.

As people of faith, we strongly profess our respect and love for our Jewish siblings, and we condemn antisemitism in word and deed wherever it appears and however it occurs.

Beloved colleagues, we members of the North Dare Ministerial Association believe the voices of faith leaders are profoundly needed in this volatile time. We invite leaders of every religious community in Dare County to read this statement and/or to add your own words from your pulpits, lecterns, and pastoral messages to your gathered congregations as soon as possible. The well-being of our Jewish siblings here on the Outer Banks and in other locations asks more of us than our unspoken supportive thoughts, feelings, or even prayers. We thank you for your careful consideration.

In faith and love,

The North Dare Ministerial Association