



GREATER HUNTINGTON BEACH INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Dedicated to understanding, respecting, promoting, and celebrating spiritual and cultural diversity

Executive Committee:

April 5, 2021

Penelope Nichols, President
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Patricia Goodman, Vice-president
Self-Help Interfaith Program

Marsha Rechsteiner,
Immediate Past President
Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic Church

Maha Ragab, Secretary
Muslim Community

Emrah Erduran, Treasurer
Community Liaison,
The Pacifica Institute

Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein, Member
Rabbi Emeritus,
Congregation B'nai Tzedek

Rev. Pattie Mercado, Member
Spiritual Director, Huntington Beach
Center for Spiritual Living

Rev. James Pike, Member
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the
Resurrection, Huntington Beach

Mission Statement:

The Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council is a gathering of representatives of faith-based communities and individuals dedicated to understanding, respecting, promoting, and celebrating spiritual and cultural diversity.

Statement regarding acts of violence and extremist hate groups gathering in Huntington Beach.

The Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council (GHBIC) is saddened by the recent acts of violence in our country and concerned about the persistence of extremist hate groups gathering in our beloved city. We strongly condemn any and all acts of hate and violent extremist ideologies that have led to the loss of lives, the destruction of families, and damage to society. Hate has no place in Huntington Beach.

We believe that every human life has infinite value and that each of us deserves respect, love, and support. Let us come together across our city, and all across this country, in the spirit of unity, to begin dialogues of understanding to eradicate racism, extremism, and hate. Let us open and strengthen the lines of communication between our diverse communities with those who might have a different perspective than we do. We support efforts to learn not only about our neighbors, but about ourselves as well.

We encourage all the Houses of Worship, locally, statewide, and nationally, to be gathering places for our larger community.

We, the members of the GHBIC, resolve to:

- Work with each other and with community groups to support spiritual, social, and economic opportunities for those who live in our city.
- Foster a diverse community of spiritual and secular leadership.
- Celebrate the diverse communities and individuals living within our city.
- Through our words and actions, lovingly and actively strive to cross barriers that may separate us.
- Support our Interfaith Community in actively sharing the Spirit of Love, Compassion, and Justice.

We pray that the bodies, spirits, and minds of those injured by hate crimes and acts of violence be healed. We pray for the grieving families to be comforted, and for the hearts of all humanity to come together to share this world in harmony with each other.