

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St, SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

As 562 faith leaders and 138 faith organizations across traditions dedicated to upholding the rights of all people seeking protection, we write to urge you to robustly respond to the protection needs of displaced and at-risk populations as the conflict in Ukraine escalates. We lament the suffering related to mass displacement and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and acknowledge the pain of third country nationals in Ukraine, of Ukrainians, as well as that of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans here in the U.S. who fear for their loved ones overseas. Our prayers are with everyone impacted by this conflict, their loved ones, and all who aid in their protection.

We are deeply concerned over the humanitarian impact of this conflict on both the people of Ukraine and those refugees and asylum seekers who have sought safety there. The escalation of conflict in Ukraine has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs as essential supplies and services are disrupted and civilians flee. As of March 10th, the number of refugee arrivals from Ukraine since February 24th [surpassed 3 million](#). UNHCR has [indicated](#) that the situation looks set to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century and that [12 million](#) people inside Ukraine will also need humanitarian assistance.

We commend your March 3rd announcement designating [Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\)](#) and your request to supplement our response to the humanitarian crisis. We are heartened to see the passage of the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus funding package that includes over [\\$4.5 billion](#) in emergency appropriations for humanitarian efforts overseas. However, we urge you to continue to robustly respond to the protection needs of displaced and at-risk populations. Every single person fleeing conflict has the right to seek safety in other countries and is entitled to protection without discrimination. Now is a time to display strong, moral leadership to stand with and protect vulnerable and displaced Ukrainians and at-risk populations, including displaced individuals of Black and [African-descent](#) denied equitable access to protection, stateless people, among others.

We urge you to heed indications of what lies ahead – a profound humanitarian crisis with millions of displaced individuals inside and fleeing Ukraine who need relief and protection. For this reason, we urge you to:

1. Do everything in your power to see that the United States continues to invest in humanitarian and displacement assistance and to support UNHCR's emergency response efforts to ensure people have access to shelter, food, medicine, and other forms of humanitarian aid in Ukraine and neighboring countries;

2. Ensure swift processing of pending refugee applications for Ukrainians, and non-Ukrainians who had been in Ukraine, at all potential processing locations and especially in Ukraine's neighboring countries;
3. Facilitate [family reunification](#) processing to reunite loved ones, such as by processing Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians who had been displaced in Ukraine with pending I-130 family petitions through the U.S. resettlement program;
4. Support non-governmental organizations in Ukraine and neighboring countries to assist internally displaced individuals or individuals seeking asylum in Ukraine and other host countries;
5. Recognize unique barriers encountered by stateless persons displaced in and fleeing Ukraine and better identify and protect such individuals; and
6. Immediately [designate Special Student Relief \(SSR\)](#) to protect Ukrainian students in the United States.

We are guided by our faith values to honor the dignity of each person, to welcome the stranger, and to recognize the importance of family unity. Our faith calls us to take action in solidarity with those fleeing violence, injustice, and disaster. As you respond to the crisis in Ukraine, we urge you to grant the same urgency and attention to all people seeking safety, regardless of their place of birth, race, creed, ethnicity, or sexual orientation and gender identity. We urge you to build and support a robust system through which the world's most vulnerable, including individuals and families from Cameroon, Mauritania, Ethiopia, and other African and majority Black countries, as well as Afghanistan, can access pathways to safety and are welcomed with dignity.

We are called by our sacred texts to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the sojourner. Our places of worship have historically played key roles in assisting refugees for rapid and effective integration into U.S. communities. Our places of worship and faith communities stand ready to welcome all in need of refuge.

Sincerely,

Faith Organizations

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)
 African American Ministers In Action
 All Saints' Church, Palo Alto, CA
 Alliance of Baptists
 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
 Auburn Seminary
 Benedictine sisters
 Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
 Bethany House of Hospitality
 Bethel UCC
 Carmelites Vedruna CIJPIC
 Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ
 Cathic Rural Ministry
 Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc.
 Catholic Charities of Diocese of St. Augustine
 Chizuk Amuno Congregation and Schools
 Christ Church UCC
 Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
 Church Council of Greater Seattle
 Church Women United in New York State
 Collegiate Church of New York
 Congregation Kol Ami
 Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
 Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Dominican Family
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Dranesville Church of the Brethren
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles - Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service (IRIS)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith Action Network
Faith in Public Life
Felician Sisters of North America
Fellowship Southwest
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, AZ
First Congregational Church, San Jose
First Congregational Church, Sonoma
First Congregational UCC
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn
Franciscan Peace Center
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Franciscans for Justice
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
Guadalupe Presbyterian Church (USA),
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Holy Union Sisters US Province
Hope Border Institute
IFC
InterFaith Council of the Wabash Valley
Interfaith Welcome Coalition - San Antonio
JAMAAT -- Jews and Muslims and Allies Acting Together
Jesuit Refugee Service
Journey's End Refugee Services, Inc.
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Long Island Immigration Clinic, Sisters of St. Joseph
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA)
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Medical Mission Sisters
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Jewish Women
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
New York Justice for Our Neighbors, Inc.
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Orient Congregational Church
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Pacific School of Religion
Painesville Church of the Brethren
Pax Christi Lansing
Peace and Justice Team Congregation of Saint Joseph
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Precious Blood Missionaries - Kansas City Province

Presbytery of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presentation Sisters San Francisco
Provincial Clerics of St. Viator
Raj Khalsa Gurdwara
Rime Buddhist Center
Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ - Utah
Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ - Wyoming
Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ - Colorado
Roosevelt-Freeport Church of Christ/ North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
Roosevelt-Freeport Church of Christ/NACCE
Saint Patrick Church - Kankakee
Santa Cruz Welcoming Network
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of Providence
Sisters of St Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity
Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Holy Family
Sisters of the Holy Names. of Jesus and Mary, U.S, Ontario Province
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation of the B. V. Mary
Society of Helpers
Sojourners
South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc (SAFEST)
Southern Christian Coalition
St Camillus/Pax Christi Los Angeles
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Laramie
St. Philip the Apostle Episcopal Church
St. Anthony's Social justice Ministry
Temple Sinai of Stamford
Teresian Association
Teresian Institute if Florida
Texas Impact
The Episcopal Church
The Freedom BLOC
The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ
The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
T'ruah
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ
Unity Unlimited, Inc
Welcome the Stranger, Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ
Wenatchee, Brethren Baptist Church
Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, JPIC Office
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Women's Alliance For Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)

Faith Leaders and People of Faith

National

Alba Onofrio, Soulforce
Brian Frederick - Gray, Disciples Peace Fellowship
Brian McLaren
Carol De Angelo, Sisters of Charity of New York
Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Board Chair
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Chuck Currie, Office of the Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie
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Dominica Lo Bianco, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Eileen Gannon, Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Emily Stetler, Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
Jason Miller, Franciscan Action Network
Jennifer Butler, Faith in Public Life
Jill Haberman, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Johnny Sears, The Academy for Spiritual Formation
Joshua Baird, Global H.O.P.E, United Church of Christ
Karen Georgia Thompson, United Church of Christ
LaDonna Manternach, Sisters of Charity, BVM
Laura Kigweba James, The General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Leslie Watson Wilson, African American Ministers In Action
Margo Young Sisters of the Precious Blood
Marilyn Chilcote, Beacon Presbyterian Fellowship
Mary Ann Penner, Sisters IHM
Mary Beth Klingel, Sisters of Providence
Michael Vazquez, Public Theologian
Michael Neuroth United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
Michael Gosch Clerics of St. Viator
Michael Zoosman, L'chaim! Jews Against the Death Penalty
Noella Poinsette, Sisters of St. Francis (Oldenburg)
Ruth Battaglia, Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Sharon Stanley-Rea, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
Sheila Katz, National Council of Jewish Women
Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ, Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Sr. Rose Therese, Nolita, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Teresa Kotturan, Sisters of Charity Federation
Traci Blackmon, United Church of Christ
Vivian Zoller, SSND

Alabama

Dr. Cody U Watson, Frontier Fellowship
Rev. Ken Cumbie, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Arizona

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Pamela Irvin, The Good Shepherd UCC
Ms. Helen Greer, Presbyterian
Rev. Joseph, Keesecker, Guadalupe Presbyterian Church
Rev. C Gregory Jones Clerics of Saint Viator
Rev. Ailsa Guardiola Gonzalez, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, AZ
Rev. Dr. William Lyons, Southwest Conference United Church of Christ
Reverend Randy J. Mayer, The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Sister Nancy Wellmeier, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Frank Bergen, Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

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Clint Schnekloth, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Karen Fowler-Lindemulder, United Lutheran Church

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Lay Leader Susan Tarleton, Christian Church of Woodland
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Mary Reynolds, Welcoming Network
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Ms. Linda McMahon, Providence Associate, Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-the Woods, Ms. Donna
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Sister Carol Reichert, Sisters of the Holy Family
Sister Annunciata Auletta, Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose

Sister Carol Crater, Sisters of the Holy Family
Sister Marietta Fahey, Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont
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Sister Rosemary Everett, Sr. Rosemary Everett, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
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Sr. Judith Cannon, Sisters of Mercy
Sr. Gladys Guenther Gladys Guenther, SHF
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The Rev. Canon Anna Carmichael, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
The Revered Carla Dietz, First Congregational Church of San Jose
The Rt. Rev. David Rice, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

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United States Tom Kowal, Mountain View Friends Meeting [Quaker]

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Sister Mary Norberta, CSSF Mary Norberta Felician Sisters
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Ms MariaJ Garmendia, Institucion Teresiana
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Marilyn Rausch, Providence Associate Marilyn Rausch, Providence Associates of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods
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Providence Associate of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary of-the-Woods, Terre Haute , Indians
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Sister Jean Kenny, Sisters of Providence
Sister Beth Wright, Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Indiana
Sister Linda Thompson Sisters of Providence
Sister Constance Kramer, Sisters of Providence
Sister Nancy Bartasavich, Sisters of Providence
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Sr. Gloria Memering, Sisters of Providence
Sr. Dorothy Wolsiffer Dorothy Wolsiffer, Sisters of Providence
Sr. Paula Modaff, SP Paula Modaff, SP, Sisters of Providence
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Joan Schaefer, Sisters of Providence

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Sister Jeanrtte Lucinio, Sisters of Providence St. Mary of the Woods
Sister Carmen Hernandez, Sisters of the Presentation-Dubuque

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Sister Judy Stephens, Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas
Sister Christina Meyer
Sister Jodi Creten, Sisters of St. Joseph
Sister Mary Moloney, Sisters Of Providence

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Rev. Pau Forrey, St. Paul United Church of Christ
Sister Marie Surette, Dominican Sisters of Peace

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Sister Judith Costello, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sister Margaret L Sullivan, CSJ
Sister Patricia Andrews, Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston

Sister Mary Black, CSJ
Sister Sister Mary Joan Lofgren Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sister Maryann Enright Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sister Catherine Decker CSJ Boston
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Sister Joanne Gallagher, CSJ Joanne Gallagher, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sr Gail Donahue, Sisters of St Joseph
Sr. Joanne Solari, CSJ
Sr. Denise Kelly, Sisters of St. Joseph, Boston
Sr. Dorothea Masuret CSJ Dorothea Masuret, Sisters of St. Joseph
Sr. Jean Plausky Jean Plausky, Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

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Rev. Hans Peterson, River Of Hope
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Mississippi

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Sister Joanne Reuter, St louis
Sister Loretto Maes, Member of Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, O'Fallon
Sister Francine Koehler, School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sister Carol Orf, Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

Theresa Tighe, Sisters of Providence St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. Associate member.

Montana

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Rev. Ashley Birk, First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Marc Stewart Montana - Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ
Nebraska
Sandra Sypherd, Grace United Methodist Church

Nevada

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Ms. Linda Michon, St. Aloysius de Gonzaga Catholic Community
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The Rev. Dr. Emily C. Heath, The Congregational Church in Exeter

New Jersey

Friar Joseph Monahan Franciscans, Third Order Regular
Ms. Beth DeLucia, Order of Secular Franciscan, OFS
Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, Temple Emanu-El
Rabbi Lee Paskind Beth Sholom Congregation
Rev. Dr. David Montanye David Montanye, First United Methodist Church of Avalon
Sister Antonelle Chunka Felician Sisters of North America
Judy Kushner Christ Our Light Church
Michelle Boddorff, Justice and Life committee

New Mexico

Sister Kathleen Corbett, IHM Cathedral
Sr. Joan Brown, of Joan Brown, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Treasurer Jan Thompson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, NM
Rev. Glen Thamert, Jemez Peacemakers

New York

Br. Michael Potvin-Frost Order of Franciscan Hermits
Brother Joseph Bach, OSF, Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn
Charles R. Kerner, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, Melville
Sister Christina Marie Luczynski, Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America
Jugith Justinger, SSJ, Sisters of St Joseph
Clare Nolan, Sisters of Good Shepherd
Mr. Jerry Rivers Roosevelt-Freeport Church of Christ/ NACCE
Mr. Glenn Hufnagel, St. Lawrence RC Church
Mrs. Erika Groff Spindle City Vineyard Church
Ms. Diane Gaertner
Ms. Ellie Hutchison Cervantes Union Theological Seminary
OFS Mary Smith, Secular Franciscan Order
Ordo Secular Franciscus OSF Mary Smith, Secular Franciscan Order
Rabbi Burton Visotzky, JTS
Rev John Long First Presbyterian Church
Rev Dr Donna Schaper, Orient Congregational Church
Rev. Dennis McDonald, Upper Room Inclusive Catholic Community
Rev. Merle Showers, University United Methodist Church
Rev. Tonya Eza Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Rev. James-Patrick Mannion, St. Raphael RC Church
Rev. William Michatek, Holy Trinity Church

Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, Unitarian Universalist (retired)
Rev. Paula Hart PaulaHart, American Baptist Church
Sister Faith Colligan, Daughters of Charity Province of St. Louise
Sister Joan Agro, Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sister Mary Katherine Hamm, Sisters of Charity
Sister Danielle Bonetti, CSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Albany
Sister Theresa Clarizio, Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Sister Kathleen Duggan, Sisters of Good Shepherd
Sister Elizabeth Giarrusso, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sister Margaret O'Donnell, Sisters of St. Joseph
Sister M. Ancilla Maloney, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton,. PA
Sister Sister Eileen O'Connor, Sisters of Mercy
Sister Mary Lorette Tokasz, Felician Sisters
Sister Suzanne Wallin, Sisters of Charity of New York
Sister Mary Louis Rustowicz, Felician Sisters of North America
Sister Mary Nolan, Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville
Sister Marlena Roeger, Sisters Of St. Joseph
Sr. Maureen MCGowan, Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Sr. Margaret Palliser, Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary
Sr. Maureen Harris, Sisters of St Francis
Sr. Dorothy Scesny, PBVM, Srs. of the Presentation BVM
The Rev. Ivy Gauvin, St. Timothy Lutheran Church
The Reverend Stan J Sloan, Collegiate Church of New York

North Carolina

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Reverend Debbie Layman, Highland Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Julie Wilson, Open Arms Community
Rev Dr Douglas Wingeier, United Methodist Church
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Rev. Marc Wyatt, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Field Personnel
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Ohio

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Sister Carol Jean Willie, EarthConnection

Sister Marjorie White, Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
Sister Sheilamarie Tobbe, Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Sister Maureen Gwynn CSJ
Sister Sally Duffy, SC, Sisters of Charity Cincinnati
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Oklahoma

Rev. Daniel U'Ren, Western Oaks Christian Church

Oregon

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Mr John Kingery, St. Juan Diego Catholic Church Parishioner
Mr. Danny Rauda, St anthony catholic church of Tigard, OR
Mrs. Patricia Montone, St Pius X Catholic Church
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Ms. Cleo Reilly St. Juan Diego Parish
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Rev. Tyler Connoley, Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ
Rev. Kenshin Catherine Cascade, Bird Haven Zendo (Soto Zen Buddhist)
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Sister Dorothy Jean Beyer, Benedictine Sisters
The Reverend JoAnne Bennett, Episcopal Church of Western Oregon
Margaret Retz, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

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Elder Jean Dankosky, Christ Presbyterian Church
Lay Leader Ann Ferry, Messiah Lutheran Church
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Mrs. Pamela Morris Friedens, UCC
Mrs. Judith Schofield, St. Mary's Episcopal Church - Ardmore
Pastor Audrey Kanagy, Ridgeview Mennonite Church
Person Kathy Ross, St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev David Tatgenhorst, St. Luke United Methodist Church
Rev. Sandra Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Rev. Lisa Krieg Lititz Church of the Brethren
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Rev. Paul H agedorn, Tabernacle Lutheran
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Sister Hollis Chenery, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary
Sister Christine Stankiewicz, Felician Sister
Sr. Mary Lydon sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Suzanne Gallagher, Justice Team Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
The Reverend Rebecca Barnes St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Vestry Member Teresa Harrison, St Mary's Episcopal
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Dr. James Klein
Elder Bee Moorhead, Texas Impact
Elder Judy Bochner, Covenant Presbyterian Church
Linda Reid
Mr. Robert Ferre, St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Ms Adriana Estringel
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Rabbi Nancy Kasten, Faith Commons
Rev Charles Kullmann, CSP, St. Austin Catholic Church
Rev. Megan Peglar, University Christian Church
Rev. Rick McClatchy, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas
Rev. Laurie Anderson, Midway Hills Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Tim Bruster, First United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Paul Ziese
Rev. Dr. Edward Kern, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Rev. Dr. Marcus Pomeroy, American Baptist Churches
Reverend Ruth Winkler Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rita Clarke, Northaven United Methodist Church
Ruling elder Marguerite Scott St.Philip Presbyterian Church of Houston
Sister Margaret Kenny, Sisters of the Holy Spirit
Sister Rosemarie Goins Felician Franciscan Sisters of North America
Carolyn Riddle St. Louis King of France Catholic Church

Utah

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Sister Veronica Fajardo, Sisters of the Holy Cross

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