



## SHARING SACRED SPACES

# DECLARATIONS

### FROM PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNITIES

#### **Chicago Sinai Congregation**

Rabbi David Levinsky

We, as Jews, commit to this pledge because, throughout history, we have known the evils of bigotry, persecution and intolerance. The Holocaust occurred because others stood by and watched. We would never want to witness other religions or peoples be mistreated or become victims of hatred. We have great empathy for the hardship and suffering of any people and would quickly defend or come to the aid of any of the participating communities were they under attack in any way.

We, as members of Chicago Sinai, commit to this pledge because, since our earliest days, we have been an open-minded and inclusive congregation. Above our front door is the inscription "Our House shall be a House of Prayer for All People". Our own Rabbi, Emil G Hirsch, was instrumental in the creation of the original Parliament of the World's Religions at the 1893 Columbian Exposition. We consider followers of all religions to be God's children.

We, as faithful Chicagoans, commit to this pledge because we all live in a very diverse community. Certainly we have our differences but, through programs like this, we're also made aware of, and can celebrate, our many, treasured common values.

#### **Downtown Islamic Center**

Syed Kahn

We Muslims, both as individuals and as community of the Downtown Islamic Center, feel pleased and honored to sign a pledge of support with other faith communities. This action, we feel, is in accordance with the more than 1400 year old tradition of our beloved Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be on him, who signed a pledge of mutual support and defense with the tribes and other faith communities that

inhabited the city of Madina when he first moved there. Cooperating with one another in acts of piety, such as collectively contributing to fulfill civic needs, is in line with the teachings of the Quran, as God has ordained, "And cooperate with one another in acts of piety and God consciousness ..." So also it is our duty to stand with our fellow humans against any injustice and harm against any innocent God's creature. Together with other faith communities we pray that God enable us to bring some good to the beautiful multi-cultural city of Chicago that we call home."

### **First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple**

Kwang Oh

We, as Christians, commit to this pledge because we believe that there is one God who loves us all and calls us to love one another.

We, as members of the First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, commit to this pledge because our Wesleyan tradition insists that we work with all people of good faith to serve the world and our theology and history allow us to extend hospitality to all at the heart of the city.

We, as people of faith and practice invested in Chicago, commit to this pledge because the city is big enough to have all of the world's religious traditions and small enough that we must learn how to work and live together, serving as a model for others.

### **Fourth Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Joyce Shin

We, as Christians in the Presbyterian tradition, commit to this pledge because the radical love and acceptance of Jesus Christ compels us to tear down walls of division and foster mutual understanding with all of God's children.

We, as members of Fourth Presbyterian Church, commit to this pledge because we believe that there is more that binds us together than separates us as faith communities, and we hope that our open arms of support and joined hands of partnership will demonstrate to others the rich potential of inter-religious dialogue and collaboration that we hold dear.

We, as people of faith and practice invested in Chicago, commit to this pledge because we believe that it is imperative for the future of our city and our nation that citizens of all religious communities and citizens with no religious community learn to live together in harmony and to work together for peace, justice, and prosperity for all.

## **Midwest Buddhist Temple**

Rev. Ron Miyamura

We, as Buddhists, commit to this pledge because the Oneness of the Universe allows each of the participants in the Sacred Spaces program, in their diversity, to live in peace and harmony.

We as members of the Midwest Buddhist Temple commit to this pledge because the Sacred Spaces program has shown the strength of cooperation resulting in the enrichment of the spiritual life of Chicago.

We, as participants in the Sacred Spaces program of the Parliament of World Religions of Chicago, commit to this pledge because we have gained a richer understanding of other religions and traditions, enabling us to stand together in the face of violence or defamation.

## **Old St. Patrick's Church**

Bob Kolatorowicz

We, as Roman Catholics, believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and form one human family. This truth is foundational in our faith tradition. As Catholics, we are called to participate in the work of building a world where all people live as caring sisters and brothers.

The people of Old St. Patrick's Church are convinced that the differences among religious communities need not be divisive. Indeed, we believe that our differences are the gifts that we give to each other. We, at Old St. Patrick's, choose to honor and celebrate the rich diversity of religious belief and practice that so profoundly shapes the experience of life in our city.

Proud to stand in solidarity with our neighboring communities of faith, worship, and practice; the people of Old St. Patrick's welcome opportunities to work side by side with our partner communities in the Loop to promote peacemaking, justice, and a greater appreciation of harmony in diversity.

## **St. James Episcopal Cathedral**

Rev. Kevin Goodman

As Episcopalians we commit to this pledge as our baptismal covenant calls upon us to strive for peace and justice among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

As members of St. James Cathedral we commit to this pledge because we believe that God calls us to be opened to each other and the world.

As people of faith and practice invested in Chicago we commit to this pledge because we believe that faith communities must work in solidarity, love, and compassion in service to God and one another.

## **Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist**

Lois R. Carlson, CSB

Just as a Christian Scientist wants to be known as the child of God made in God's image and likeness, so we want to honor others as the children of God regardless of their creed or theological point of view.

As a church family, we know the strength we feel in supporting one another and we want to honor the support other congregations are giving to the spiritual growth of individuals.

As part of the Chicago Loop, we acknowledge that the roots of this great city are not primarily secular and material, but spiritual and transcendental. Values like compassion, justice, peacemaking, and harmony in diversity are anchored in the Divine, and we acknowledge the need for the power of God to further the progress of Chicago communities.