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## **Alachua County Faith Leaders Alliance**

### **Statement on October 19 white nationalist rally at UF**

**Text of statement to be released at press conference to be held at City Hall on Monday, October 16, at 5:30 pm. Rev. Maureen Killoran will be among the speakers.**

In light of recent public displays of hatred and violence, the distressing normalization of hateful and divisive ideologies, and the impending white nationalist event within our own community, we, the members of Alachua County Faith Leaders Alliance, offer these words of hope.

Gainesville is a city of many colors, beliefs, and ideologies. The diversity of humanity is what makes our city special. Gainesville is a city of hope; our residents and guests know that there is far more uniting us than could ever divide us. We are committed to the conviction that we are one human family. Therefore, we join together to reject beliefs that would tear our community apart. As faith leaders we stand for love, knowing that each of us is created in the image of our Creator, and by our Creator we are called to care for one another as God cares for us.

Islam teaches us that God organized us into nations and tribes precisely to foster appreciation of the unity underlying our outward differences. The prophet Muhammad said, "All humankind is from Adam and Eve. A white person has no superiority over a black person, nor a black person over a white person except by piety and good action" (Last Sermon, Bukhari 1623,1626,6361).

Judaism teaches that one of God's core commandments is "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).

Christianity teaches that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Buddhism teaches that "Every human being has a basic nature of goodness, which is undiluted and unconfused. That goodness contains tremendous gentleness and appreciation. By serving this world, we can save it. But saving the world is not enough. We have to work to build an enlightened human society as well..." (Chogyam Trungpa, Shambhala: The Sacred Path of the Warrior).

We believe, with Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, that:

"Out of a community of diverse heritage and belief, we come together to share our hope, and to create good in the world. The teachers of all traditions and times have taught that we are called to mercy, generosity, and mutual care and that to be good is to serve. We know that there can be no enduring happiness for humanity so long as despair reigns and want goes unrelieved. Until all may be sheltered, none of us is truly at home. May the power of our various faiths sustain us in this calling, that we may be the hands of holy creativity and justice. Together may we build a better world."

Today we stand united in our diversity and stronger for it. Gainesville is a city of hope; a city of love; a city of peace. Hate and violence have no place here. We choose to be united in love.

Rev. Andy Bachmann, United  
Church of Gainesville  
Rev. Catherine Dearlove, Trinity  
Metropolitan Community  
Church  
Rev. Chad Fair, Gethsemane  
Lutheran Church  
Rev. Beth Farabee, First United  
Methodist Church of  
Gainesville  
Father Reed Freeman, Holy  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Rev. Larry Green, Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Milford L. Griner, Bartley  
Temple United Methodist  
Church  
Rev. Terrance Jacob, University  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Rev. Kevin Johnson, First United  
Methodist Church of  
Gainesville  
Rabbi Michael Joseph, Temple  
Shir Shalom  
Dr. Saeed Khan, Hoda Islamic  
Center  
Aqueela Khuddus  
Rabbi David Kaiman,  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
**Rev. Maureen Killoran,  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Gainesville**  
Sandy Lyon, Gainesville Quaker  
Meeting

Rev. Eve MacMaster, Emmanuel  
Mennonite Church  
Dr. Richard MacMaster, Emmanuel  
Mennonite Church  
Rev. Greg Magruder, Parkview  
Baptist Church  
Rev. Geraldine McClellan, Mt.  
Pleasant United Methodist  
Church  
Heather Pancoast, Gator Wesley  
Campus Ministry  
Joel Pancoast, Gator Wesley  
Campus Ministry  
Rev. Catherine Fluck Price, Trinity  
United Methodist Church  
Rev. Steve Price, Trinity United  
Methodist Church  
Rev. Talia Raymond, United Church  
of Gainesville  
Rev. Aaron Rousseau, Trinity  
United Methodist Church  
Rev. Lenora Rousseau, Trinity  
United Methodist Church  
Dr. Dennis Shuman, P'nai Or  
Gainesville Jewish Renewal  
Congregation  
Father Les Singleton, Church of the  
Mediator  
Jan Snyder, Gainesville Shambhala  
Meditation Group  
Rev. Shelly  
Wilson, United Church of  
Gainesville  
Bonnie Zimmer, Gainesville Quaker  
Meeting

READ ON FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE EVENTS OFFERED BY ACFLA MEMBER  
CONGREGATIONS.

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**ALTERNATIVE EVENTS OFFERED BY ACFLA MEMBER CONGREGATIONS.**  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY AND ALL.**

**GAINESVILLE QUAKER MEETING**

October 19, 2:00pm-6:00pm

Meeting for worship in the Library; Light refreshments; All are welcome

**TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM**

October 19, 1:00pm-5:00pm

Gathering for peace, an opportunity to spend difficult hours with friends. Light refreshments, and opportunities for community-building work. Please bring food to donate to the hungry, and snacks to share with each other. (Rev. Maureen plans to share part of the afternoon with our Jewish colleagues.)

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

October 19, 2:00pm-5:00pm

Open Chapel for prayer, meditation, and candlelighting

**UNITED CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE**

October 16-19 - 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Labyrinth walk for prayers and meditation in the sanctuary

- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Service of Labyrinth Walk, Candlelighting, and Prayers

Also: ART FOR PEACE, children, youth, and adults create art together.

All events are open to the public

**TRANSGENDER?**

There will be a gathering for transgender people and their families, friends, and allies. The location of this gathering is not being disclosed publicly for reasons of confidentiality and safety. Contact Rev. Maureen Killoran for more information (revmaurenuu@gmail.com).