



The InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC)

*“Advancing Justice, Building Community,
Nurturing Understanding”*

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An Interfaith Vision for Our Community

As faith leaders from the greater Washington, DC area, we offer this as a statement that arises from our trust in God and belief that good government is exercised “under God,” with respect for the inalienable rights of all. The theological underpinnings that form the foundation of our principles and values have, at their root, our responsibility to serve humanity and these values call us into community. The truth of our common humanity is shared by all, including atheists, agnostics, and those who claim no particular religious affiliation. These values are in harmony with the best of the values undergirding the founding documents of the United States.

This interfaith vision for our community is founded on the hope that leaders and citizens alike might use this fundamental truth as the basis of particular practices of citizenship and express these values legislatively across all the governmental, civic, corporate and not-for profit organizations that make up our diverse community.

First and always, we are neighbors. **We don’t get to choose who is our neighbor.** The neighbor is a gift. We are neighbors regardless of creed, religious affiliation or non-affiliation, race, gender, gender identity, country of origin, political party affiliation, mental or physical ability, or socio-economic condition. We are called fundamentally to be good neighbors with and for each other.

There are, in fact, moral requirements for society. We do not merely live for ourselves, but with and for each other. We are not exempt from serving our neighbors. We proclaim that other people may never be reduced to opportunities for our own pleasure or success; they aren’t commodities to be traded, or inconveniences to be ignored or rejected.

As religious communities we are committed to these values. We invite all area businesses, organizations, government entities, and individuals to prayerfully join us in this commitment:

1. to be a good neighbor.
2. to value life. We oppose slavery, human trafficking, economic or sexual exploitation, torture, racism, sexism and any other practice that harms life.
3. to value families and the safety and nurture of children within those families.
4. to value quality education for all - children, teens, adults, seniors.
5. to aspire to meaningful vocations for all adults and a living wage for reasonable labor serving the common good.
6. to embrace mutually beneficial commerce that serves the common good. We oppose any commerce that demeans human life, practices usury, benefits a few while harming others, or harms the common good.
7. to promote responsible environmental stewardship of the earth and its resources.

Our urgent concern is to remind our fellow citizens at a time when our beloved country experiences anguish and division that there are in fact values which unite us. We insist our religious communities and individuals be free both to speak of and also to act on these concerns in order to help heal wounds and comfort those in need of God’s healing through prayer and neighborly service to their fellow human beings.