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Wisconsin Faith Voices For Justice: Wisconsin faith community stands with the LGBTQ+ community

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In response to the Human Rights Campaign's recent 'State of Emergency' declaration for LGBTQ+ people in the United States, we write as clergy and people of faith to urge an end to political, civic, and religious hate speech against the LGBTQ+ community. And we unequivocally and unconditionally affirm and celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer members of our communities.

As leaders representing various faith traditions, we stand united in our support of each individual's human dignity and worth. We stand united in our belief that our LGBTQ+ siblings are beloved and sacred. Each person should feel safe and nurtured in our communities.

Therefore, we denounce the use of political hate speech against the LGBTQ+ community. Hate speech dehumanizes our family members, friends, and neighbors, and too often leads to violence against marginalized communities. We have witnessed a rise in dehumanizing language aimed particularly at the LGBTQ+ community at all levels of government—from the U.S. Congress to local school boards. Such language causes great emotional and psychological harm to the Queer community, particularly to our LGBTQ+ youth. Therefore, we call upon all people to counter messages of hate with messages of love.

We call on our legislators and elected officials at all levels of government to block or oppose anti-LGBTQ+ bills, ordinances, and policies. Currently, more than 550 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in 41 state legislatures, with more expected, including right here in Wisconsin. School boards across the country have enacted anti-LGBTQ+ policies, impacting our Queer youth and their families. Our

transgender and non-binary siblings continue to be disproportionately targeted by such actions. Instead, we challenge our political leaders to put forth policies and proposals that celebrate, affirm, and protect LGBTQ+ people.

To the LGBTQ+ community we say: our communities, our cities, our state, and our nation are stronger and more vibrant because of our diversity. No matter your sexual or gender identity, you belong here. As faith leaders, we cannot and will not remain silent in the face of injustice towards our LGBTQ+ neighbors. An attack on you is an attack on us all. We see you. We love you. And we dedicate ourselves to advocating for policies that enable everyone to thrive.

Signatories:

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Advent Lutheran of the Madison Christian Community

Bethany United Methodist Church, Madison

Capitol Lakes, Madison

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Ashland

Christ Presbyterian Church, Madison

Circle Sanctuary, Barneveld

First Baptist Church of Madison

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Madison

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Watertown

First Lutheran Church, Onalaska

First United Methodist Church, Madison

Great Plains Zen Center, Monroe

Interfaith Peace Working Group

Lake Edge UCC, part of Alliance@4200, Madison

Madison Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, Madison

People's United Methodist Church, Oregon

Plymouth Congregational UCC, Madison

St. John's Lutheran Church, Madison

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church, Madison

The Crossing Campus Ministry, Madison

The Social Justice Ministry of the First Unitarian Society of Madison

Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, Wauwatosa

Union Congregational United Church of Christ, Green Bay

United Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Waukesha

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