

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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Dear Senator:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Iraq war. From prior to the beginning of the war in 2003, Christian communions and interfaith organizations have opposed pre-emptive military action in Iraq. Faith leaders in Oregon have expressed grave concerns that the use of military force would contribute to further violence and the victimization of innocent people in Iraq who had already suffered more than two decades of war and economic deprivation. The daily loss of Iraqi lives, especially children, along with the rising death count among U.S. and coalition military forces has created an untenable situation. Our faith calls us to speak out against the violence.

In Oregon, religious communities have issued statements opposing this war both prior to the invasion and as the conflict has continued. Our local religious leadership, along with their national bishops and executive counterparts, lament the continued warfare.

We concur with the comments of Bishop Thomas Wenski, Chairman of the Committee on International Policy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In January 2006 he called for a “serious and civil” dialogue that leads to “a responsible transition” in Iraq:

“Our Bishops’ Conference repeatedly expressed grave moral concerns about the military intervention in Iraq and the unpredictable and uncontrollable negative consequences of an invasion and occupation...At the same time, our nation cannot just look back. The intervention in Iraq has brought with it a new set of moral responsibilities to help Iraqis secure and rebuild their country...Our nation cannot afford a shrill and shallow debate that distorts reality and reduces the options to ‘cut and run’ versus ‘stay the course’...an honest assessment of our moral responsibilities toward Iraq should commit our nation to a policy of responsible transition...”

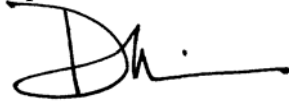
We urge you and our congressional delegation to call upon President Bush and the United States government to commit to the following actions to ensure this “responsible transition:”

- 1) A transfer of real sovereignty to the Iraqi people. This requires the gradual withdrawal of American troops, with a transfer of interim control to the United Nations or another international body until an adequate level of security is achieved and the people of Iraq can maintain the rule of law.
- 2) Provision by the United States of funds for economic and humanitarian aid to Iraq to help create reasonable levels of employment and economic opportunity for all, including support for the refugees and asylum seekers fleeing dire situations in Iraq.
- 3) Support for the development of political structures to advance stability, broad political participation, respect for religious freedom, and basic human rights for all Iraqi people.
- 4) Our government, in its efforts to maintain security at home and abroad, should guard against the excessive use of military force. We must acknowledge that terrorism cannot be fought solely with military methods, but also by serious diplomatic efforts and by confronting the dire effects that poverty wields in creating hopelessness in the lives of people throughout the world.

By implementing these actions, peace is possible in Iraq. We hope that you take these considerations into account carefully as you engage in debate, consider legislation for possible withdrawal of our forces in Iraq, and vote on funding for the continuing occupation and reconstruction.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Leslie
Executive Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Oregon Bishops and Executives

The Most Rev. John G. Vlazny
Archbishop
Catholic Diocese of Portland in Oregon

The Rev. John Gantt
Interim Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference United Church of Christ

The Right Rev. William O. Gregg
Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

The Rev. Robert T. Hoshibata
Bishop
United Methodist Church: Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference

The Rev. Aleida Jernigan
Co-Executive
Presbyterian Church USA (Presbytery of the Cascades)

The Rev. Brad R. Shumate
Minister
Community of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt
Co-Regional Minister
Disciples of Christ (Christian Church in Oregon)

The Rev. Dr. LeRoy Haynes, Jr.
Minister
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Religious Leaders

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Multnomah Meeting Friends Church

Imam Shahriar Ahmed
Bilal Mosque

The Rev. Annette Arnold-Boyd
Episcopal Church

The Rev. Phillip W. Ayers
St. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dave Bean
Cherry Park United Methodist Church

The Rev. Barbara Bellus
Epworth United Methodist Church

The Rev. Theodore Berktold
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Alcena Boozer
St. Philip the Dean Episcopal Parish

The Rev. Sallie Bowman
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal
Church

The Rev. Brian Brandt
Central Lutheran Church

Andrea Cano
Regional Coordinator: UCC Peace and
Justice Action Network

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St. Luke's by the Sea Episcopal Church

The Rev. Chuck Cooper
Christ the Reconciler United Methodist
Church

The Rev. Chuck Currie
Parkrose Community United Church of
Christ

The Rev. Dcn. Stephen Denny
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Alison M. Dingley
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Suzan Farley
St. James Lutheran Church

The Rev. Sara Fischer
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Lowell Greathouse
First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Janis Hansen
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church

Rabbi Maurice Harris
Eugene, OR

The Rev. Jack Hilyard
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Rabbi Aryeh Hirschfield
Congregation P'Nai Or

The Rev. Dcn. Katharine Holland
Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

The Rev. David Knapp
St. Luke Lutheran Church

The Rev. Mark Knutson
Augustana Lutheran Church

The Rev. Christopher Laing
Chair: Jubilee USA Network Oregon

The Rev. JoAnn Leach
Christ Church Episcopal Parish

The Rev. Shannon Leach
Christ Church Episcopal Parish

The Rev. Susan Leo
Bridgeport United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Litzenberger
St. Aidan Episcopal Parish

The Rev. Lynne Smouse-Lopez
Ainsworth United Church of Christ

The Very Rev. William Lupfer
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

The Rev. Cecilia Kingman Miller
Wy'East Unitarian Universalist

RCA Moore
Convener: People of Faith for Peace

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The Rev. Kurt Neilson
St. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church

The Rev. John Nesbitt
St. David of Wales Episcopal Church

Rev. Carlos E. Nunez
Holy Cross Episcopal Church

The Rev. Marcella (Peg) Pfab
Southminster Presbyterian Church

The Rev. John Rodgers
Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dcn. Ann Rose
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Edward A. Rouffy
Episcopal Church

The Rev. Patricia Ross
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Wajdi Said
Director: Muslim Educational Trust

The Rev. John S. Scannell
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

The Rev. John Schwiebert
Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church

The Rev. Marilyn Sewell
First Unitarian Church

Rabbi Joshua Stampfer
Congregation Neveh Shalom

The Rev. Tom Tate
Rose Park United Methodist Church

The Rev. Wes Taylor
Tualatin United Methodist Church

The Rev. Maureen Tighe
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

The Rev. Richard Toll
Chair: Friends of Sabeel, North America

The Rev. Patrick A. Tomter
Department of Spiritual Care
Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital

Justice and Witness Ministry of the
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Church of Christ

The Most Rev. Kenneth Steiner
Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Portland

Mary Jo Tully
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The Rev. Robert Loughery, CSC
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Holy Trinity Church

The Rev. John Kerns
St. Juan Diego Church

The Rev. David Janes
St. John Church

The Rev. Joseph McMahon
Our Lady of the Lake Church

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Resurrection Church

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St. Anthony Church

The Rev. Thomas Farley
St. Clare Church

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St. Cyril Church

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St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church

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Pastoral Associate, St. John the Apostle
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Ascension Church

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Holy Family Church

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St. Agatha Church

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The Rev. Robert Krueger
St. Francis Church

The Rev. Peter Byrne, SJ
St. Ignatius Church

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St. Philip Neri Church

The Rev. Joseph Corpora, CSC
Holy Redeemer Church

The Rev. E.B. Painter, SJ
Madeleine Church

The Rev. Charles Lienert
St. Andrew Church

The Rev. Agnelo Gomes
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St. Joseph the Worker Church

The Rev. Patrick Walsh
St. Michael Church

Chris Kresek
Pastoral Administrator, St. Rita Church

The Rev. Jack Mosbrucker
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The Rev. Juniper Schneider, OFM
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The Rev. Dan Reynolds
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Immaculate Conception Church

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The Rev. Timothy Mockaitis
Queen of Peace Church

The Rev. James Coleman
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The Rev. Ben Innes, OFM
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The Rev. John Henderson, OFM
St. Mary Church

The Rev. John McGuire
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Pastoral Associate, St. John the Apostle

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St. Andrew Church

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The Rev. Elwin Schwab
St. Joseph Church

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University of Portland

The Rev. Claude Pomerleau, CSC
Religious Superior, Holy Cross in Oregon

The Rev. Richard Berg, CSC
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Associate Director, Jesuit Spirituality
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The Rev. Tom Lankenau, SJ
Portland Nativity School

The Rev. Thomas Royce, SJ
St. Ignatius Church

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Sister Mary Patricia Naumes, SNJM

Sister Theresa Caluori, BVM

Sister Kathleen Carr, BVM
Social Justice Ministry, St. Mary Church

Sister Joan Maiers, SMJM
Marylhurst University

Sister Barbara Kennedy, OSM
NW Catholic Counseling Center

Sister Lisa Sheridan, OSM
NW Catholic Counseling Center

Sister Mary Smith
The Hearth Franciscan Gathering Place

Sister Phyllis Morris
The Hearth Franciscan Gathering Place

Sister Linda Roby, BVM
Archdiocese of Portland

Sister Phyllis Jaszjowiak, SNJM
St. Charles

Sister Sharon Joyer, SNDdeN
Earth Home Ministries

Sister Patricia Nagle, IHM
Earth Home Ministries

Sister Delores Doohan, BVM
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