

INTERFAITH STATEMENT  
November 11, 2011

We, the undersigned faith leaders of Portland, Oregon, affirm and see in the spirit of Occupy Portland and the Right 2 Dream Too the power of community, call to compassion and democracy and justice renewed. The Occupy movement in particular has called into question both the inequities and inhumanity in much of our country's political and economic system.

Our religious traditions are clear: We are called to lift up the needs of those living on the margins and to challenge the inequities that impoverish the many for the benefit of the few. The voices of our neighbors are clear: the American dream is compromised; the stability and well being of many of our people are slipping away; and in our politics, honesty and fairness are dissipating. We identify with the protestors concerns regarding militarism, political and economic inequality and the onrushing crisis of climate change and insist that these concerns must be discussed and acted upon at all levels of American society.

While we may differ as to the tactics of these movements and their future, we urge that differences be resolved in a spirit of mutual respect and nonviolence and that the use of force is antithetical to these values. We ask that the primary focus of the public debate be not about forms of protest but rather on the larger spiritual, moral and ethical questions that these occupations raise.

We therefore commit ourselves to the restoration of justice for all in our economy and compassion in our politics and that together we might behold a revolution of values for all of our people. We ask all Oregonians to join us in this commitment and to listen attentively to the needs, hopes and dreams expressed by all who are suffering and dispossessed. In doing so, we join together in democracy renewed and the building of a nation of possibility for all persons.

Rev. Dr. John Paul Davis, Minister for Outreach  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Parish

Pastor Dennis Andersen  
St. James Lutheran Church

Rev. Kate Lore, Social Justice Minister  
First Unitarian Universalist Church

Rabbi Michael Cahana, Senior Rabbi  
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Rev. Dr. William Sinkford, Senior Pastor  
First Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev. Dennis Parker, Rector  
St Stephen's Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr. Anton DeWet, Senior Pastor  
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. David Wheeler, Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church

Mr. David Leslie, Executive Director  
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