

## Statement of Solidarity with the Muslim Community

WHEREAS, the Muslim Student Association has for over a decade used the fellowship hall at Grace University Lutheran Church for prayer and now gathers every Friday for prayer at Grace;

WHEREAS, Muslims worship the God of Abraham and hold Jesus in great reverence;

WHEREAS, American Muslims, and other marginalized religious communities, face hostility and discrimination in our community and many other areas of our society;

BE IT RESOLVED that Grace University Lutheran Church adopt and make public a statement of solidarity that reads:

“We stand in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, affirming our common heritage as spiritual descendants of Abraham. We condemn all hostile and intolerant words and actions done in the name of religion or directed at anyone because of their religious beliefs. We pledge ourselves to reach out in friendship, not fear, and to work together toward the Beloved Community. We ask God’s blessing and guidance on our way.”

### **Notes:**

We reference the God of Abraham and not “Abraham and Sarah” because Muslims trace their lineage back to Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar.

Some might be legitimately concerned that this action sets a precedent for Grace to be required to take formal public stands on many issues of concern. This action seems particularly appropriate because, like the Reconciling in Christ initiative, it deals with specifically religious implications. Much of the aggression toward Muslims in the U.S. today is done purportedly in the name of Christianity.

The term Beloved Community has been used frequently by Martin Luther King, Jr., and other faith-based social activists.