

GREATER SAINT CLOUD  
**FAITH LEADERS**

PARTICIPATING  
FAITH COMMUNITIES

ARRIVE MINISTRIES,  
ST. CLOUD

BAHA'I FAITH COMMUNITY

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF THE DIOCESE OF  
ST. CLOUD

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
ST. CLOUD

CATHOLIC RELIEF  
SERVICES, ST. CLOUD  
DIOCESE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA  
ISLAMIC CENTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

HIGHER GROUND CHURCH  
OF GOD

ISLAMIC CENTER OF  
ST. CLOUD

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. CLOUD

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

ST. BENEDICT'S MONASTERY

ST. CLOUD UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP

ST. CLOUD CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ST. JOHN'S ABBY

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH, ST. CLOUD

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

*We are a volunteer group with members representing faith traditions who share a commitment to advance human dignity, respect for religious freedoms, and working together for collective peace, unity, and healing.*

*All faith traditions in central Minnesota are welcome to become members and support common initiatives.*

**FAITH LEADERS**  
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ST. CLOUD, MN 56303  
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It is no secret that the 2020 election season has been a contentious one, not only between the candidates, but throughout our entire community. It has been a time of high emotions, strong opinions and great division among families, neighbors, and within our faith communities as well. As leaders in the many faith traditions of the greater St. Cloud area, we have each seen harsh words and actions abounding in these past months. Our fear is that these ruthless behaviors will only continue on Election Day and beyond. And so, we urge you, the members of our various faith communities and all people of good will, to seek civility and peace in the coming weeks.

Each of our faith traditions calls us to respond to the world around us, including the civic arena, out of our values. And while there are many values that our traditions share related to the issues up for debate this election season, we choose instead to use this space to speak of our common values of *peace* and *unity*.

Unity does not mean that we will all agree this election season; we may not agree on candidates or parties or even issues we prioritize. We may not agree with our neighbor's political signs or the social media posts we see. But despite our disagreements, we must remember the unity we are all called to as neighbors and companions on this journey, as one human, national and St. Cloud family. Only in remembering this ultimate unity we share, can we seek the peace so needed in the coming weeks, weeks that will no doubt continue to be contentious and challenging regardless of the results of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election.

We pray that, no matter what the results of the election are, our community members will work to build a community of kindness, civility, hope and peace. If there ever were a moment for us to summon the courage to do so, regardless of where we stand in this unprecedented, divisive and sometimes toxic election season, it is now.

We ask you, members of our faith communities and our neighbors, to please demonstrate the values of your faith tradition and these ideals of unity and peace in the way you conduct yourself, including your political conversations, both now and as we move beyond November 3<sup>rd</sup>. May all people of faith be an influence of peace in this divided and polarized climate, serving as role models of civility and respect as we talk to neighbors, strangers and fellow faith community members alike.

In the midst of strong opinions and the actions that sometimes accompany them at this politically-charged time, the Greater St. Cloud Faith Leaders group urges peace, respect and civility.

Greater St. Cloud Faith Leaders,

*The Greater St. Cloud Faith Leaders is a multi-faith group consisting of leaders, staff and volunteers from the following faith traditions: Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baha'i, Methodist, Episcopal, Pentecostal, Unitarian Universalist and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Their purpose is to foster a shared commitment to human dignity and respect for religious freedom while working together for peace, unity, and healing.*