

August 17, 2017



Dear APC Members and friends to APC,

As professional chaplains and as people, we are saddened and sickened by the hate-filled divisive events and the rhetoric around the topic of race, diversity and intolerance. The recent events in Charlottesville, VA and demonstrations that have cropped up all over the country by bigoted and hate-based groups are destructive to healthy human relationships and are therefore unacceptable. As Leaders of APC we unequivocally denounce the violence and philosophy that these groups espouse.

APC, its mission, vision, and values promote love, understanding, and inclusiveness for all. As stated in our Code of Ethics, "Inclusivity and diversity are foundational values in pastoral services offered to persons and are valued throughout the structures of the Association. Public advocacy related to spiritual values and social justice concerns is promoted on behalf of persons in need." These are bedrock principles of our members, our board and the Association of Professional Chaplains.

While we recognize and respect the rights of citizens to assemble peacefully and practice their right to speak freely, we find the racist and intolerant views these groups promote to be deplorable! This statement from APC's leadership unequivocally affirms the inherent dignity of all people which guides our profession.

As we mourn the loss of life, and pray for the injured we can also use this point in time to learn from one another and to seek constructive ways to advance diversity, inclusion, and equality. We ask our members to share resources, sermons, sacred writings, prayers and poems that have brought you comfort or solace during this time. Please support each other to find words and wisdom to share with others during these tense and troubling times.

Sincerely,

Kimberly JM Murman MDiv MBA BCC President

Patricia F. Appelhans JD, CEO

*On behalf of the APC Board of Directors*