

Church Council Resolution Disapproving Hate Speech and Supporting Interfaith Dialogue

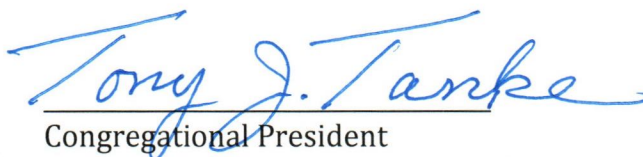
The Church Council of the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation (LCI), a congregation in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby finds and resolves as follows:

All hate speech is intolerable and unacceptable, whatever our differences may be, and cannot legitimately be dismissed, excused, or ignored as mere exaggeration. Imam Ammar Shahin of the Islamic Center of Davis delivered two sermons in July that called for the destruction or annihilation of the Jewish people. The imam's words constitute anti-Semitic hate speech. Those words were understandably hurtful and deeply troubling to Jews and others in Davis and elsewhere. LCI expresses its sympathy and support to Jews and to their fellowships at Congregation Bet Haverim and Chabad of Davis and to others who have suffered injury arising from the imam's speech.

LCI also deplores hate incidents and threats that have targeted the Islamic Center of Davis and the Muslim community as well as others that have targeted the Jewish and Muslim communities at UC Davis. LCI's sympathy and support is likewise extended to the victims of these incidents and threats.

LCI further pledges to oppose religious intolerance and to increase understanding and appreciation of our different faith traditions and experiences through honest, forthright, and genuine interfaith dialogue. It urges all religious communities to engage with their sacred texts and traditions, and with one another as children of God, in order to speak and act toward each other in ways that promote mutual understanding and respect.

Dated: December 12, 2017


Congregational President