



May 11, 2010

OneJax Statement Re: Explosion at Mosque

We are deeply saddened and disturbed by last night's act of violence at the Mosque of the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida. As clergy that represent a broad range of faith traditions, and as Board members of OneJax, we want to state unequivocally that we condemn any act of violence directed at any faith's place of worship in our community—or anywhere.

We know, on a very personal level, of the basic goodness, kindness and tolerance of the people of Jacksonville. It is all the more unfortunate that an irrational and extreme act of an individual or small group should reflect on the values that most of us hold dear in Northeast Florida. We encourage other faith leaders and the citizens of our community to assert that there is no room for this behavior here. We urge all to reach out to our local Muslim community in peace and support and help us to reinforce that we are a city with appreciation, respect and understanding for all religions, cultures and beliefs.

George M. Good, Jr.
Deacon
St. Matthews Catholic Church

Dr. William Stephen Goyer
Pastor
Riverside Presbyterian Church

Rabbi Joshua B. Lief
Senior Rabbi
Congregation Ahavath Chesed—The Temple

Reverend Dr. Nicholas G. Louh
Parish Priest
St. John The Divine Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Kyle T. Reese
Senior Pastor
Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church