



Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ

Nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches

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Dear Friends in Beit Fajjar

Peace and Salaam to
Imam Masjed Beit Fajjar

We write to express our solidarity and concern for you and your community of faith. Even though thousands of miles separate us, we know that our lives are connected. We stand on the common ground of our shared humanity and mutual desire to be a faithful people.

Though we are followers of Jesus, we recognize and honor those who follow God in other forms and expressions. Our faiths lead us to believe that none of us are called to violence or to destroy what is sacred and life-giving to others. We respect scripture, whether our own or that of others. We value sacred space be it ours or others. We protest the burning of Qur'ans and weep that this happens in various places in the world. We protest your recent experience of the burning of Qur'ans and prayer rugs in your mosque and the defacing of your sacred space.

It is in this spirit that we reach out to you. We know that the good people of Beit Fajjar are hurting, and there is much in your life that is a continual source of pain and frustration -- not the least of which is the sense that you are unknown, forgotten, and discounted. We write this to you from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ simply to say we are praying for you, we stand with you against attacks and bigotry, and we hope that some good will come of these tragic events.

Perhaps the fact that we stand with you today will be for you a sign of hope. Perhaps one positive thing that can come from your recent loss is that our church is reaching out in friendship to a place so relatively unknown in America.

We pray for peace and we work for justice. Know us as friends; strangers no more.

Shalom Peter

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