

Prayer and Support

Message 1:

I felt the need to offer prayer and support to the American people especially those who are Muslim and who attend your mosque. I myself am a Christian and felt it necessary with the current political climate in this country to share my words of encouragement, love and support. Although we are from different religions I think it is very important that this not be a reason to let differences create a rift. I know the Muslim community in America today has been falsely profiled and made to be a religion which should be feared and that Muslims are potential threats to our safety. I wanted to make sure that you know that despite what is going on in the country today, there are people like myself who want to offer you prayer and support. Please know that there are many people who respect you and will not stand for hateful rhetoric that persecutes you. I have never been more concerned for everyone in our country and I hope to be wrong in this fear. However, if things in the country get worse, I think you should know that there are people outside the Muslim community who will stand with you and support you despite our religious differences. It worries me that ignorance and fear are causing people to treat you unfairly and cannot imagine how you may be feeling. You need to know many people will continue to offer support and ensure your freedoms are protected.

Message 2:

I am a resident of East Grand Rapids. I am not Muslim, but I wanted to get in touch to say how deeply troubled I am by the actions taken by the new President and how very sorry I am for the stress that the hate, misinformation, and now actions spread by this administration must be causing for members of your congregation. Please know that the majority of us value the diversity of faiths present in Michigan and want to stand with you against unconstitutional and shameful government persecution. I have been calling our Congressional representatives, Governor, and State Attorney General to demand that they stand up for people of all religious faiths, but I wonder if there are more ways that I/we could

help support members of your community? If so, please let me know. If there aren't more concrete ways to help right now, again, please just know that the majority of people are happy to have your house of worship in our great city.

Best wishes,

Message 3

I am a member of St. John's UCC, on the west side of Grand Rapids. As I worshipped today, I prayed for your faith community. Please know that the majority of your fellow Americans stand with you in the time of Trump. I will be taking action and contacting political leaders to protest anti-Muslim actions. You are supported and lifted in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Message 4

I'm sorry about what is happening in this country. I support you.

Message 5

I hope you have received many messages like this one. As a U.S. citizen I am ashamed of my country. We live outside of Grand Rapids but if there is any way an older, white woman can assist your female members with facing discrimination I, and several others, are here to support them.

We value our Muslim brothers and sisters and are so glad to have you as fellow citizens.

Most sincerely,

Message 6

With all that is going on in the world right now, my family and I would like to reach out to let you know we care for you, we respect you and we support you. Most importantly, we we STAND with you!!

Respectfully,

Message 7

I'm a resident of Holland, MI. I just wanted to reach out and say that I'm firmly against trump's general demonization of Muslims, and that I am totally opposed to his recent ban on refugees and visas. His actions are inhuman and unAmerican. I fully support your rights to live in peace, free from harassment, free from unjust scrutiny, and to practice your religion. For what it's worth, I have many friends here and around the country who are just as angry at trump and just as supportive of your community.

If you ever need a friendly voice, or need help, including maybe some sort of community outreach here in Holland, please let me know.

Thanks!

Message 8

First let me say how deeply sorry I am for the terrible actions that have been taken by the American government. Please know that many of us in the community feel outraged at the recent events and are standing with you in solidarity during this difficult time. I work at GVSU and yesterday over 200 students, faculty, and community members gathered for a Solidarity Dinner with the Muslim Community, organized by a few of our student groups. It was heartening to see.

Message 9

I work in the International Center at GVSU. Because a lot of my family and friends know that I work with international students, many of whom are Muslim, I've had several people reach out to me this week and ask what they can be doing to help. Additionally, several people have asked if I know any Muslim faith leaders who would be willing to speak to members of their congregations (mainly Christian).

Please let me know if this is something you would be interested in. Feel free to call or email me at your convenience. Additionally, if there is anything we can do to support you during this dark time in our nation, please let us know. We are with you, we support you, and we are glad you are members of our community.

Message 10

I am a Grand Rapids resident who is shocked and devastated by the hateful speech surrounding the presidential election, the outcome, and the recent ban on Muslim entry into the country. I have been seeking out opportunities to voice my objection and show care and compassion individuals who have been alienated by the hate rhetoric coming from the new President. I am writing to ask how we could show support to the local Muslim community. My inclination is to stand outside your mosque door and hug people and thank them for being part of our community. However, I feel that we should ask you how to show support to your community. How do we do that? Six months ago I considered myself pretty open minded and informed. Now I realized i am living in a bubble, and have no idea how to interact with the Muslim community in a way that would be appreciated. Would a supportive group of people with signs standing near your mosque be a good thing? Would giving out hugs by your front door help? Send kind notes? I am asking with a genuine and well meaning intent. Thank you for your time. I hope to hear from you.

Message 11

With our escalated political environment we are now living in, I believe in building bridges of understanding and making statements of solidarity. Many in our congregation are eager to learn more about our Muslim brothers and sisters, and to stand beside them in such confusing times. Would it be possible for some members and friends of the church to visit soon for Friday prayer? Im thinking maybe 4-6 visitors?

Thank you!

Blessing to you,

Message 12

Message: Dear Friends,

We want you to know that we do not support Trump's executive order to ban Muslims from seven countries and Syria. As followers of Jesus, we are ashamed and embarrassed by his actions and want you to know that we support your right to express your religion as you see fit and will defend your right to do so in any way we can. We recognize your community as an integral part of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the U.S. and we are glad you are here.

Blessings to you,

Message 13

We wanted to reach out to you and stand with you in this time of uncertainty and terror that the president has enacted. Please know if you need anything we are here. Both pastor Jill and myself stand with you always but certainly during this time.

Peace to you

Cascade Christian Church.

Message 14

I want to show my support for the Muslim Community of Grand Rapids. I am a stay at home mom of 2. How can I help, I have clothes I can donate or time?

The values articulated by our current Administration are not the way we feel here in Grand Rapids and I do not condone this behavior.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Message 15

Please know there are those in our community who stand with you against ignorance and intolerance. We appreciate your presence.

You are in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Message 16

I hope you have received many messages like this one. As a U.S. citizen I am ashamed of my country. We live outside of Grand Rapids but if there is any way an older, white woman can assist your female members with facing discrimination I, and several others, are here to support them.

We value our Muslim brothers and sisters and are so glad to have you as fellow citizens.

Message 17

I live in Greenville, about 45 minutes from Grand Rapids. I just wanted to take a moment to reach out and apologize for the discriminatory actions taken by our executive branch. Please know that there are many people that disagree with his actions and will stand up for religious freedom.

Sincerely,