

The Clergy of Lawrence Township

A Statement in Response to the Mass Shooting in Atlanta on March 16

We, the undersigned members of the Clergy of Lawrence Township, are outraged and deeply saddened by the recent act of senseless violence that took place in Atlanta on March 16. Our hearts grieve for the eight people who were tragically killed, and our prayers are with their families.

As we collectively mourn such a horrific loss, we stand in solidarity with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in their resonant call for justice. We recognize that while hate crimes, racism, and violence toward our AAPI siblings has increased significantly just in the last year, this call for justice has reverberated from AAPI communities for generations and has been ignored.

We acknowledge that the murder of these individuals has incited the already present fear among the AAPI community and serves as a painful reminder of the ways in which racism and xenophobia intersect with sexism and gender-based violence.

Firmly rooted in our commitment to our various faith traditions and as leaders and members of the Lawrence Township community, we see it as our goal and responsibility to promote a more just and humane society. Therefore, we actively stand in defense of our AAPI siblings and will continue to work alongside members of the AAPI community in our united fight for human dignity. We will hold each other accountable and advocate for equitable policy, practice, and education. We remain committed to speaking out in the face of hateful rhetoric, violence, and injustice. We will strive to create safe and welcoming spaces for AAPI persons and all people of color within our own congregations. And we call on all of you—the members of our community—to join us in raising our collective voices until the dignity and rights of all people are acknowledged.

Signed,

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The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville

Rev. Ryan Irmer
Slackwood Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson
The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville

Tahirih Gomez-Smith
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Rabbi Elisa Goldberg
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Rev. David Rowe
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