

1. During this time of challenge and controversy in our country, we pledge to stand with those who are targeted by hate and ignorance. Regardless of who we voted for, we understand that the rhetoric of this election has re-mobilized and re-energized some very hateful points of view in this country. Hate and fear create a climate that further marginalizes people who have historically been discriminated against by our laws and cultural mores, so this resurgence of white supremacist thinking gives many people a reason to fear for their safety.
2. We see color. Although hate and fear diminish every person's humanity, systematic injustice and culturally embedded discrimination especially target Black Americans, immigrants, people of non-Christian faith traditions (especially Jewish people and Muslims in today's climate) & LGBT people. We understand that it's important to say this explicitly, and that being clear about this is a way of acknowledging the human beings whose lives and well-being are at stake.
3. Beyond denouncing clear instances of hate, violence & shaming, we also acknowledge that silence in the face of these atrocities makes us equally culpable. We acknowledge that quieter hate crimes (carefully worded legislation slanted against certain people-groups, denial of housing or home loans, stereotyping in our news, media and entertainment) are equally harmful. We will speak up when we see these things happen, and will do our best not to support businesses, media outlets or any other organization that contributes to hate and fear.
4. We will challenge ourselves to learn more about the hurt and the plight of those who are feared, hated, marginalized and underserved. We will challenge ourselves to spend time educating ourselves, instead of looking for ways to convince ourselves of our innocence.
5. We will look for ways to be helpful, neighborly and compassionate to the people in our lives.
6. We each pledge to muster our courage and creativity to find what is each of ours to do in the face of oppression, and fear-based unkindness and discrimination. We will not be judgmental of people who are hurting in the ways that they protest and look for change. We understand that just because one strategy for creating change isn't for one of us, that doesn't mean that it's "wrong." Instead- we will spend that time looking for the strategy that does resonate.
7. Lastly, we pledge to reach for light, for hope and for love instead of giving in to despair or hate. If any of us sees a friend who is discouraged, or who has been pushed passed the breaking point, we will care for them and help them recover. In the words of Dr. King: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate- only love can do that." We will not be a part of the darkness and the hate! We will support and encourage each other's efforts to light the way to a more just and peaceful America, and will encourage each other when we see that someone is struggling to stay loving, hopeful and light-giving.