August 20, 2017

Mayor Michael Signer
605 E Main St., # A230
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Mayor Signer:

As members of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California, we wish to send our thoughts as your community heals from the hateful demonstrations, senseless violence and domestic terrorism of the weekend of August 11, 2017. The act of terrorism that occurred on Saturday, August 12th was an act of cowardice fueled by hatred and intolerance. We write to offer our condolences to the Charlottesville community for the loss and trauma you have experienced as a result of the violence. We offer our sympathy for those who were injured, and we mourn the deaths of Heather Heyer and Virginia State Police Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Berke M.M. Bates.

At All Saints Church, our Peace & Justice ministries call us to do the work that embodies our baptismal promise to strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being. We have, for more than 100 years, stood for God’s abiding love for all God’s children. We have stood up for justice and stood up against evil. As our rector Mike Kinman recently said, “When we see evil like this, we must name it, confront it, resist it and defeat it. If we do not, we should not pretend that we follow Jesús.”

Thus, we condemn the racism, antisemitism and antigay attitudes that were manifested by white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville. We oppose the prejudice, discrimination and violence against others that occurred. We reject any and all forms of hatred and bigotry. We call on the Charlottesville police and Virginia State Police to prevent violence like this from happening.

As our Racial Justice Ministry encourages us to use our faith and spirituality as catalysts to change the culture of privilege and power, we are committed to the elimination of all forms of oppression and recognize God’s love for all. We believe that all human beings carry within them the Divine. We value all people regardless of their race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, or familial status.

We support Charlottesville and our nation in efforts to heal from this recent trauma. We continue to keep your city in our prayers.

Sincerely,

We, the undersigned, at All Saints Church