



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

31 Sulphur Springs Rd.
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 1L7
Phone: 905-648-6024

Email: standrewsancaster@gmail.com
Website: www.standrews.ws
Minister: Rev. John T. Read

To the Congregation of Beth Jacob Synagogue,

We the elders of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ancaster wish to express our profound sadness and outrage at the terrible act of violence committed against the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our prayers go out to the families and community of those who were killed, injured and traumatized in this despicable act against the Jewish people.

Our prayers are also with the members of the Jewish community here in Hamilton and across Canada who are in mourning and have been shaken by this horrific act of antisemitism. Every such act must reopen old wounds for many in the Jewish community and renew concerns about your safety.

As Christians we are mindful of the role that we have played in the history of antisemitism. In 2011 the Presbyterian Church in Canada issued a statement on our relationship with the Jewish people which acknowledged and expressed renewed repentance for our harmful attitudes and actions. It also called on all Presbyterians to show solidarity with our Jewish neighbours when acts of hatred are committed against them.

We pray that this letter might be considered as an act of solidarity. We your neighbours would also like to know if there are other ways we might help you to feel safe in your local community, in this city and in this country that we share. Finally, we pray for the day when God puts an end to all hatred and violence and brings his peace and justice to every nation.

May God's Grace and Peace be with you in this time,

Rev. John T. Read
Moderator of Session
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Elders: Doris Thompson (Clerk of Session), Nancy McDivitt, Evert Nieboer,
Janice Orovan, Walter Owsianik, Diane Robb, Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Rev. John Hibbs