



Kingston Interfaith Council
KingstonInterfaithCouncil.org • KingstonInterfaithCouncil@gmail.com
30 Pine Grove Ave • Kingston, NY 12401

March 19, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Urgent Request to deploy the US Military to New York State to assist with COVID-19

Dear President Trump,

This morning, the Kingston Interfaith Council, which represents over 50 religious and spiritual leaders and their communities, held an emergency virtual meeting to discuss the compounding impact the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on our houses of worship and community in the Kingston, NY area.

We are profoundly concerned at the exponential spread of this disease, which is affecting not only the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, but with a growing number of adults, young adults and children being hospitalized and facing death. We are deeply concerned at the lack of capacity of our hospitals - the lack of beds, medical equipment, and protective gear for the doctors, nurses, health workers, and staff. **This is not acceptable.**

Our health systems are at capacity. Some of our houses of worship have been contacted by the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) asking if our worship facilities could be used as temporary hospital clinics. **This is not acceptable.**

We urge you to act immediately on the proposal issued by Governor Andrew Cuomo to deploy the US Military to New York State so that they can respond and meet the escalating need for hospital beds and treatment.

We need this action now! It cannot wait another hour. Our people's lives are on the line. Whether they will have the medical supplies to survive will ultimately fall on your hands.

Sincerely,

The Kingston Interfaith Council members *signed below*:

The Kingston Interfaith Council (KIC) is a gathering of religious and spiritual leaders who provide a collective moral response to the concerns of our community in the Kingston, NY area. We join together in actions that promote interreligious understanding, social justice, and community.

Vicar Suzanne Campise, Candidate for Ordained Ministry in the ELCA – Kingston, NY
Rabbi Yael Romer, DD, Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley – Kingston, NY
Father Frank Alagna, PhD., Holy Cross Santa Cruz Episcopal Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Michelle Meech, St. John's Episcopal Church - Kingston, NY
Imam Syed Khalid Khan, Muslim Association of Ulster County
Rev. Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, Zen Mountain Monastery – Mt. Tremper, NY
Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson, Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church – Pearl River, NY
Rev. Joy MacVane, Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. D. Modele Clarke, D. Min., New Progressive Baptist Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Dr. Faye Banks Taylor, St. Mark's AME Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Leonisa Ardizzone MDiv EdD, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills – Kingston, NY
Rev. Renee House, Old Dutch Reformed Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Tom Taylor, Redeemer Lutheran Church – Kingston, NY
Cantor Bob Cohen, Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley - Kingston, NY
Rev. Kendra VanHouten, Fair Street Reformed Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Robert Milsom, St. James United Methodist Church – Kingston, NY
Rev. Shane Phelan, Companions of St. Mary the Apostle – West Park, NY
Rev. Elizabeth Broyles, Companions of St. Mary the Apostle – West Park, NY
Rev. Jim Childs, Pointes of Praise Family Life Center – Kingston, NY
Adele Calcavecchio, lay leader, Holy Cross Santa Cruz Episcopal Church – Kingston, NY

CCs to:

Governor Andrew Cuomo
Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Kristen Gillibrand
Congressman Antonio Delgado
Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan

The Kingston Interfaith Council (KIC) is a gathering of religious and spiritual leaders who provide a collective moral response to the concerns of our community in the Kingston, NY area. We join together in actions that promote interreligious understanding, social justice, and community.