



January 19, 2022 Religious Leaders' minutes:

Twenty two attendees gave their name and congregation, reflected on parts of Amanda Gorman's *A New Day's Lyric* and offered a word of hope for this meetings' engagement with Rabbi Peter Stein from Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rodolfo Rivera from the Fr. Tracy Advocacy Center, North Clinton Road and Virginia Fifield from the Indigenous community.

Rabbi Stein updated us on Rabbi Charlie Cytron Walker's statement after the January 15 violence. We are challenged to respond together in response to increasing problems: Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, Colleyville. Locally, we've endured bomb scares and vandalism; we have a major security concern even as we wish to be hospitable to people who wish to worship and be fed in body and soul. Sustaining and supportive messages and calls are heartening as colleagues and neighbors recognize our pain. Rabbi David Abrahams, Temple EtzChaim, spoke of the pain of a long history of violence and how necessary this dialogue is to heal hate. The key is loving mutual respect.

Actions: Read articles by Deborah Lipstadt, author, scholar, whose nomination as State Department Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism is stalled. See [ad/adl-track-of-anti-Semitic-incident](#)

Rodolfo Rivera said the Fr. Tracy Center sees violence daily. He asks, What is your relevance in all this? Church has got to go to the people; simple solutions can be found over a cup of coffee and a sandwich. Building relationships by treating people with dignity and respect validates their humanity. The solution to the problem lies in us. Love does overcome all things. Put the Gospel into high gear. Speak to the drug dealer. Apply what we know; it works. (editorial comment: Fr Greg Boyle, SJ, founder/director, Homeboy Industries in LA wrote *Tattoos On the Heart*, *Barking to the Choir* and *The Whole Language* documenting over thirty years of love and listening to and believing in violent gang members and previously incarcerated people who become contributing members of our community. Homeboy industries is the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world.

Virginia Fifield We need to study the Doctrine of Discovery. A good education depends upon real history. Indigenous people are the invisible minority. There is no word for hate in First Nation's language but we know what it means by colonizers and those who keep us in 18th century buckskins and feathers with no place in gov't, or church. Stolen land, stolen children, broken treaties, mass graves at residential schools, inadequate health care and poverty are just part of their suffering. Indigenous people stand up for others: The Water Protectors protested the DAPL pipeline for the common good; a leak in the pipeline would have polluted water to the Dakotas through to and including Chicago. A sister of Mercy said she experienced a deep sense of the holy as she saw First Nation peoples' ritual dance in a brave attempt to stop tanks from wiping out peaceful protesters at Standing Rock.

Rev. Dr. William Wilkinson, Barbara Green and Dr Deni Mack encouraged joining RocACTS local organizing work in response to injustices.

Rev. Rebecca Segar said she feels a sense of the sacred in acts of protest and recommends training through Crossroads, a program Virginia Fifield finds very helpful and eye opening.

Rev. Michael Ford, pastor, Lake Ave Baptist church sent his delegate to this meeting who resonated with **go out to the people.**

Pastors Abigail Hoffman and Amy Walter-Petersen say register <https://bit.ly/ZoomJan2022> for 7pm Jan 31 zoom Christian Nationalism: the Intersection of Religion and Politics with Dr William H Petersen sponsored by St Luke's Episcopal and Bethlehem Lutheran churches, Fairport.

Dr. Deni Mack invited our input at listening session(s) in response to Pope Francis' desire to hear how we want to "walk together" on this planet. Email deni.mack412@gmail.com your availability & we'll set up a mutually convenient time.