**Name: Interfaith Committee in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Life**

***#Interfaith4BlackLives***

**Statement of Purpose:**The Interfaith Committee in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Life will fight for the liberation of Black people in the name of love, through means which are life-giving and in celebration of all life, to directly challenge and truly transform the status quo of white supremacy in Oakland with effects rippling to the rest of the bay area, the nation, and the world.

**We Seek to Create Beloved Community in Action**

We are a multiracial, interfaith group from many different traditions, beliefs, and communities coming together in common purpose. We bring our entire selves, listen to one another, and learn from our different perspectives. We center relationship, and we understand the building of deep trust as foundational to taking bold and direct public action together.

We maintain awareness of power dynamics in meetings and work to ensure that Black voices, perspectives and leadership are cherished, in particular. We continuously attend to and work to undermine Christian hegemony, anti–Semitism, islamophobia, racism, heterosexism, transphobia, ableism, ageism and patriarchy – as well as all forms of systemic oppression – in our meetings together.

Our direct actions are public actions that disrupt business as usual, and that illuminate changes needed to nourish and safeguard Black life.  These actions withdraw consent from white supremacy and provide opportunities for people to experience solidarity and support, and to deepen commitments to the movement for Black life.

As an interfaith formation, we bring prayer, meditation, song, stories and worship as tools of the struggle.

We proactively visualize and work to build Beloved Community.  We recognize the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. We understand that we are all human family, belonging to the land and to Spirit, and we believe that we need to remember that in our action together. This requires attention to the hard work of reparation, reconciliation, redemption and being in right relationship. We believe that this Love will bring about miracles in hearts. As people of faith, this is our testimony.  There are always forces around us and within us looking to divide us. We will hold and create Beloved Community in fierce love. We call in everybody.

**Statement of Principles*:***We cherish, learn from and stand by the guiding principles of Black Lives Matter.  During our meetings, we review and learn from these principles together.

**To join the announcement list, email:** Interfaith4BlackLivesInfo@googlegroups.com

The **Black Lives Matter Guiding Principles** include:

Diversity - We are committed to acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference(s) and commonalities.

Restorative Justice - We are committed to collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people. As we forge our path, we intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.

Unapologetically Black - We are unapologetically Black in our positioning. In affirming that Black Lives Matter, we need not qualify our position. To love and desire freedom and justice for ourselves is a necessary prerequisite for wanting the same for others.

Globalism - We see ourselves as part of the global Black family and we are aware of the different ways we are impacted or privileged as Black folk who exist in different parts of the world.

Black Women - We are committed to building a Black women affirming space free from sexism, misogyny, and male‐centeredness.

Collective Value - We are guided by the fact all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location.

Transgender Affirming - We are committed to embracing and making space for trans brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are committed to being self-reflexive and doing the work required to dismantle cis-gender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.

Black Villages - We are committed to disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, and especially “our” children to the degree that mothers, parents and children are comfortable.

Empathy - We are committed to practicing empathy; we engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.

Black Families - We are committed to making our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We are committed to dismantling the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work “double shifts” that require them to mother in private even as they participate in justice work.

Loving Engagement -  We are committed to embodying and practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with one another.

Queer Affirming - We are committed to fostering a queer‐affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking or, rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual unless s/he or they disclose otherwise.

Intergenerational - We are committed to fostering an intergenerational and communal network free from ageism. We believe that all people, regardless of age, shows up with capacity to lead and learn.