



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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A PASTORAL LETTER TO OUR CHURCH
AND TO THE REV. TERRY JONES,
PASTOR OF DOVE WORLD OUTREACH CENTER,
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.

September 9, 2010

Grace be yours and peace.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

In a world wherein conflict and enmity are the bread and butter of the evening news; in a world wherein conflict and enmity are ancient realities; in a world wherein hurts and pains too deep for words are etched in the faces of sisters and brothers everywhere; in such a world as this the burning of the sacred writings of any people is an affront to all that is honourable, just and pure.

Our own ancient scriptures teach us that we are to love our God above all and our neighbours as ourselves (Luke 10:27).

As Christian leaders, we urge anyone who would contemplate such actions as would be hurtful and painful to people of other faiths, and which would call into question our own pledge to love our neighbours as ourselves, to seek a more excellent way as we engage people of other faiths.

Let us love one another as we have been loved. Let us refrain from the language of hate and hurt. Let us refrain from such actions as would not be honourable, just or pure.

As we have opportunity, let us pledge ourselves to honest inquiry and open dialogue with our neighbours of every faith.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Rev. Dr Greg Mohr
Synod Bishop
BC Synod

The Rev. Ron Mayan
Synod Bishop
ABT Synod

The Rev. Cindy Halmarson
Synod Bishop
SK Synod

The Rev. Elaine Sauer
Synod Bishop
MNO Synod

The Rev. Michael Pryse
Synod Bishop
Eastern Synod