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JEWISH RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION

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Dear Pastor Nabors,

Jewish Tradition teaches, "*Lo ta'amod al dam re'echa; You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor." (Leviticus 19:16)* In our community, city, and country, our neighbor's blood is being shed through centuries of racially motivated violence and systemic racism. It is our Jewish and human moral obligation to speak up against racism and to support our fellow human beings, especially in a time when racist rhetoric from our highest national offices has been amplified. As silence is akin to complicity, we must not be silent. We are all made in the Image of the Divine.

The racism in which our country is steeped must end. As a rabbi and as the leader of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, I and my community condemn all forms of racism, white supremacy and white nationalism, and work alongside our fellow community members to end its insipid presence. It is only when we are explicitly antiracist and when we confront our own biases, prejudices and racism that we can truly embody our values of *"v'ahavta l're'echa camocha;" loving our neighbor as ourselves." (Leviticus 19:2)*

I am proud to stand with the NAACP as an ally and a supporter, and look forward to staying beside one another through struggle, triumph and change.

B'shalom v're'ut – In Peace and Friendship,

Rabbi Rachel Weiss