



Lovers of Justice,

We pray that each of you finds yourself in an acceptable place in mind, body, and spirit. We use that word “acceptable” because we know this is not a normal time in our lives and in human history. There are no longer six degrees of separation when it comes to the death and destruction this coronavirus pandemic is causing.

Every day we talk to members of our BRIDGE Religious Leaders Caucus, pastors, priests, rabbis, and imams. These men and women are your spiritual leaders. And they are faced on a daily basis with the unenviable task of trying to help people make sense of this chaos: Trying to help them make sense of the cold cruelty of “here today and gone tomorrow”; Praying with them when their loved one goes into the hospital; Praying with them as they wonder if their parent or loved one, who resides in a nursing home, isn’t living in the valley of the shadow of death. This is a new normal for all of us and, for clergy, it has drawn us into deeper conversations with our Almighty Creator. These aren’t the things we expected when we sat in seminary training. We never expected to stand in the gap between God and humanity for so much suffering and separation at one time. Nobody talks about these moments in the committee interviews that led to our positions of congregational leadership.

But we press on. We remain as long as we need to on the phone calls and video calls. Why? Because of our unshakeable faith. Even though we ourselves have seen our loved ones go into the hospitals and cemeteries we refuse to let go of our faith. We been called to serve, and we will continue to.

But let me close with a question. Who ministers to the minister? You do. Of course God does, but God also moves through each of you. Our Religious Leaders’

Caucus asks that in your quiet moments you continue to pray for your pastor, your rabbi, your imam, your priest. Every day we are living with not just the normal responsibilities, but the weight of the heartache and pain of each of you. Disappointments you weren't ready for. We'll continue to pray for all of you. But we ask you to do the same for us as well.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Brian Murray/Rev. Angelique Mason
Co-Chairs, BRIDGE Maryland