

We, the undersigned, are grieved to learn that the Ku Klux Klan is planning a parade in our state.

As Christians we recognize that sisters and brothers in Christ often disagree on matters of public policy. But Christians are united in the proclamation of the Gospel. The Gospel tells of the belovedness of creation and every person in it (Gen 1; John 3:16). It reveals that even in the face of our sin, God persists always and only in love, for God is love (1 John 4:8). Indeed, we hear that, in Christ, God was reconciling the whole world to God, not counting our trespasses against us, so that finally, in Christ, the dividing walls of hostility have come down (2 Cor 5:18-19; Eph 2:14).

The Ku Klux Klan claims to be a Christian organization. Yet the beliefs and historic actions of the Klan stand in direct contradiction to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we ask our Christian Sisters and Brothers of Alamance, Caswell, and Person Counties to do the following:

- 1) If you are a member of the Klan, please prayerfully reconsider your adherence to white supremacy and the exclusion of various ethnic and religious groups from American society.
- 2) If you have church members who are active in the Klan, please talk with them lovingly in an effort to open them to the Holy Spirit's movement toward their repentance and transformation.
- 3) As churches, as Christians, oppose the proposed Klan parade announced by the Pelham area Klan and urge all Christians to condemn the event as anathema to the Holy Gospel.

Signed,

Macedonia Lutheran Church, Burlington

First Presbyterian Church, Burlington

The Rev. Richard Goeres, Macedonia Lutheran Church, Burlington

The Rev. Suzanne Shoffner, Macedonia Lutheran Church, Burlington

The Rev. Ron Shive, First Presbyterian Church, Burlington

The Rev. Lindsay Conrad, First Presbyterian Church, Burlington

The Rev. Courtney Davis-Shoemaker, Lutherans Episcopalians and Friends at Elon University

The Rev. Phil Hardy, Life's Journey United Church of Christ, Burlington

The Rev. G. Kevin Baker, First United Methodist Church, Graham

The Rev. Tamara Kersey, Maxwell Chapel A.M.E., Graham

The Rev. Adam Shoemaker, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter

The Rev. John Weinbach, retired, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Burlington

Fr. Briant Cullinane, OFM Conv., Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Burlington

Fr. Peter C. Tremblay, OFM Conv., Associated Chaplain for Catholic life, Elon University

Fr. Vincent Rubino, OFM Conv., Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Burlington