

A Statement of Unity from the Highland Lakes Ministerial Alliance

As partners in ministry in Christ's Church we affirm that we are united as disciples of Jesus and as children of God. We affirm that, to paraphrase Jesus' words as reported in the Gospel of John, by this we shall be known as Christ's followers; that we have love for one another. We are known as Christ's own by the love we have for our neighbor.

We therefore join our voices in urging our fellow citizens to be faithful in the wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, and following guidelines given to us by our local health authorities. We recognize and we share in the difficulty and pain caused by these guidelines; but we believe that maintaining these guidelines, especially the wearing of masks, is a sign of the love that we have for one another, and our willingness to endure inconvenience in order to protect one another. Masks, we believe, are not a sign of fear; they are a sign of love.

This pandemic has had a dreadful impact on many aspects of our lives. We have the ability to minimize that impact through the simple act of wearing masks while in public, and by maintaining distances of at least six feet from each other. If we are faithful and disciplined in maintaining these practices, we will allow our churches to continue to worship, our businesses to remain open, our

schools to continue to offer in-person classes, and we can minimize the loss of life to this terrible disease. We will safeguard not only our physical health, but the health of our businesses, on which so many livelihoods depend.

We also join in praying for one another, for our churches, our community, our nation, and the world as together we work to end this pandemic; we pray especially for all medical personnel and first responders who are on the front-lines of this great effort, placing their own lives at risk. May the Great Physician heal us from all brokenness in body, mind, and spirit.

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” — Romans 13:8

The Rev. John Brantley, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Ross Chandler, First Baptist Church

The Rev. Ellen Ely, First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Jackie English, Christ Redeemer Fellowship Church

The Rev. Pedro Garcia, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

The Rev. Jamie Greening, Fellowship Baptist Church

The Rev. Nan Kennedy, Trinity Episcopal Church

The Rev. Greg Neill, Marble Falls Church of Christ

The Rev. George Perry, St. Frederick's Baptist Church

The Rev. David Sugeno, Trinity Episcopal Church

The Rev. Harold Vanicek, St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Rev. Clay Walden, First United Methodist Church