

## ***Statement of Conscience About the Tragic Events Beginning September 11, 2001***

*By the Members of the Congregation of the First Unitarian Church of San José*

The members of the First Unitarian Church of San José join in sorrow with the families and friends of those who died in New York, Washington, D. C., and Pennsylvania, and with all who mourn and suffer horror at these cruel and evil acts of violence.

We seek answers and healing together with others. In so doing, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of social justice, morality, peacemaking, and reverence for life; we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of true democracy and the rule of law and reason.

We believe that revenge and retaliation will inevitably inflict casualties on innocent civilians, creating a climate of anger that fosters the continued threat of terrorism, and leading us toward a world eternally girded for conflict. We believe that the road to a peaceful world is also long and hard. To the extent that it is not paved with violence, our efforts along this road will contribute to ever-increasing strength and stability in our nation and world.

We call upon the people of our nation to become makers of peace, to challenge and bring to an end all attacks upon groups that are being targeted in racial and religious profiling. We stand side-by-side with Muslims and other targeted groups, and we commit to educating and working against all forms of prejudice and violence.

We call upon our governments at all levels, our President and our representatives in Congress to seek justice, not revenge, to seek peaceful means instead of violence, and to act with restraint and sober thoughtfulness.