

Covenant between the Presbytery of Chicago and the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

Approved by the Presbytery Assembly on June 18, 2013, this covenant is the first covenant of its kind in the Presbyterian denomination nationally.

As communities of faith, we, the **Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago** and the **Presbytery of Chicago**, believe that our religions are the rich wellsprings from which we draw our commitments to serve, support, and benefit one another. Our religions teach us that God is the creator and sustainer of the world and that responding faithfully to God requires us to commit to serve God's creation.

Responding to God requires us to strive together for the common good: the care of the earth for the generations to come, the pursuit of justice for all and the protection of our rights to practice and express our faiths as best we can. Responding to God requires us to take to heart a genuine concern for the well-being of each other. Only when our neighbors' well-being becomes our own concern can we truly be faithful to God. So, consistent with our religious teachings, we commit to stand together for those who are vulnerable and to speak up with those whose voices are not heard. We commit to teach our children compassion for those whose struggles are different from our own. We promise to become a force for good for each other and for others.

In order to achieve this vision we recognize that our two communities in metropolitan Chicago have much work to do. With sincere effort, we commit ourselves

- to deepen our understanding of each other's religions
- to recognize that we do not agree on all things
- to model respect for each other's religions
- to work together on issues of human equality and social justice, consistent with our religious values.

Together we place our trust and hope in God, that God will bless and guide our efforts and that God will turn our efforts into a blessing for us.