



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

September 9, 2010

Mrs. Samia Malik
903 Kent Dr.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Dear Mrs. Malik;

I am the Episcopal Bishop of the twenty four (24) counties in the central region of Pennsylvania from Potter and Tioga Counties in the north to York and Adams Counties in the south. I greet you and the Muslim Communities in the Harrisburg area and Central Pennsylvania as your brother in God's family. Eid Mubarak!

I write because I realize it is a difficult time for our Muslim neighbors, given the controversy around the proposed Cultural Center and Mosque near the 9/11 site in New York City and the plans by a small Christian church in Florida to burn copies of the Quran. Please know that we deplore such an act of disrespect. With many other area churches, the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania stands firmly in caring and support of you. We honor your civil right to build places of culture and worship; and we believe the Lord of our faith, Jesus Christ, teaches Christians against acts of disrespect towards our neighbors and that which is sacred to them.

Historically, when communities of cultural and religious diversity experience significant growth and begin integration into American society, they are judged by the actions of their extremist elements. We believe the majority of Muslims love God and seek to live in peace with their neighbors. However, given volatile dynamics at home and abroad, Muslims are often misjudged by extremist actions, as too are Christians. Be assured of our conviction that both history and God are with you; and that beyond the current painful tensions, respect will grow between Christians and Muslims. We are all member communities in the family of God and Americans seeking peace and liberty for ourselves and our neighbors.

Please share this greeting with the area Muslim communities, and others as you deem appropriate. Do let us know if now or in the future there are other ways we can express our support. We are praying with you for a joyous and safe end to your sacred season of Ramadan and wish you a Blessed Eid.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, D.Min., S.T.D., D.H.L., D.D.
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

c.c. Ms. Ann Van Dyke, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 11937
Harrisburg, PA 17108

DIOCESAN CENTER
101 Pine Street
Harrisburg, PA

TELEPHONE
(717) 236-5959
FAX
(717) 236-6448

TELEPHONE
(717) 236-5959
FAX
(717) 236-6448

EMAIL
officemailbox
@diocesecpa.org
WEBSITE
www.diocesecpa.org