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Statement of Love and Solidarity with Emanuel AME Church Community

June 20, 2015

With the tragic senseless violence of the Charleston massacre shaking the core of our cultural, religious, and spiritual foundations, East Bay Meditation Center extends all of its love and care towards the victims, families and communities of Emanuel and the greater AME congregation.

The personal impact of this tragedy is horrific, and the social and cultural impact even more devastating as the legacy of racism, hate violence and white supremacy remain present reality. Despite that pain, we must support each other to move through the suffering in order to create paths into the fields of Justice using the instruments of Loving Kindness, Compassion, and Wisdom. Cultivating Courage and Relationship is required for Right Action that demonstrates solidarity with those who experience injustice and oppression in our communities.

We extend gratitude to Emanuel AME Church for its history. As one of the oldest Black congregations in the South, with an early legacy of resistance to slavery, it has remained over time a community dedicated to resilience, love in action, and social service. You are a beacon to us all, as you move with grace, prophetic love and forgiveness amid such great suffering.

We bow with our deepest grief, our deepest courage, and our deepest effort to be the change and transformation that this world so desperately needs in this moment.

May we be a light to one another on the path to liberation,

Brenda Salgado

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Center Director

Kimi Mojica

Board Chair

Founded to provide a welcoming environment for people of color, members of the LGBTQI community, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented communities, the East Bay Meditation Center welcomes everyone seeking to end suffering and cultivate happiness.

Our mission is to foster liberation, personal and interpersonal healing, social action, and inclusive community building. We offer mindfulness practices and teachings on wisdom and compassion from Buddhist and other spiritual traditions. Rooted in our commitment to diversity, we operate with transparent democratic governance, generosity-based economics, and environmental sustainability.