

MeckMIN Statement — Press Conference

Islamic Center of Lake Norman | Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Good afternoon. I am Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, and I serve as Executive Director of MeckMIN—the Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network, a network of faith partners across eleven traditions in Mecklenburg County.

Several weeks ago, our Board wrote to the Islamic Center of Lake Norman to affirm something we believe lies at the very heart of our faith traditions: “that every human being, by virtue of an inherent and inalienable nobility, possesses a dignity that cannot be diminished, and belongs, without condition, to the human family and to this community of neighbors.”

We promised more than words. We promised presence. So today I want to tell you what has happened since hand delivering that letter:

Members of our Board, staff, and our network have knelt in prayer each week at ICLN’s Friday services. And messages of solidarity have poured in from across our region – from congregations, faith groups and from individuals.

One of our faith partners, a Baptist minister, visited the ICLN for worship last week. She wrote afterward: “My feet touched holy ground that afternoon, and for that I am grateful.” Another wrote simply: “you do not stand alone.”

MeckMIN affirms the conviction that the diversity of our faith traditions, our practices, and our ways of seeking truth is not something our community should fear or suppress; rather, it is a source of beauty and richness in the shared fabric of our civic life.

This is why our presence here today is the same solidarity we offered Charlotte’s Sikh community after their gurdwara was attacked, and our Jewish neighbors after recent vandalism at Shalom Park. We stand with Islamic Center of Lake Norman because no community should face fear, isolation, or unequal treatment for how it worships.

Tonight, many of you will gather at the Town Hall. We ask only this: whatever you believe, meet one another with the peace our traditions all demand of us.

MeckMIN will keep showing up—in prayer, in presence, and in the patient work of building

relationship across our differences. Thank you.