




## IAPD-USA Has Convened 120 Faith Leaders in Its Weekly Online Prayer Series

Thomas Walsh  
January 7, 2021


### Interfaith Prayer for the Nation and the World

Executive Program Committee




**Dr. Michael Jenkins**  
Chairman  
UPF-North America



**Archbishop George A. Stallings, Jr.**  
Founder, Imani Temple  
African American  
Chairman, UPF-IAPD

Interfaith Prayer Program Director



**Tomiko Duggan**  
Senior Vice President  
UPF-USA  
Coordinator  
IAPD – North America

United States -- On January 7, 2021, the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development-USA (IAPD-USA) completed 40 consecutive weekly programs in its ongoing Interfaith Prayer for the Nation and the World.

This program was held on Zoom every Thursday beginning on April 9, 2020. Abrahamic faith leaders -- Jewish rabbis, Christian pastors, Muslim imams -- along with Buddhist monks and Hindu leaders participated in the programs.

1 <sup>st</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 04/09/20 – 1000 Viewers	2 <sup>nd</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 04/16/20 – 956 Viewers
 Ven. Katugastota Uparatana Maha Thera, Buddhism	 Rev. Dr. Wintley Phipps Seventh-day Adventist
 Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, Islamic House of Wisdom	 Ven. Dr. Phramaha Thanat Inthisan, Wa Thai Washington, DC
 Pastor Dante King Forward Church	 Imam Talib M. Shareef The Nation's Mosque
3 <sup>rd</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 04/23/20 – 392 Viewers	4 <sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 04/30/20 – 184 Viewers
 Rabbi Mark Raphael, Hospital chaplain	 Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, Greater Grace Family Ministries
 Minister Amar Nath Gupta, Head Priest at the Hindu Capital Temple	 Rabbi Susan Grossman, Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia, Maryland
 Bishop Dr. Shirley Coleman, First Church of Love and Faith	 Imam Safiullah Shirzadi, Mustafa center

When the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly spread in early spring 2020 saw immense suffering and death across the globe, fear, hopelessness and despair infected many communities. No people or nation was immune. People were becoming more isolated because of lock-down procedures that closed most places of social and public gatherings and houses of worship where support and comfort could be provided.

In response to this worldwide spiritual as well as medical crisis, IAPD-USA National Chairman Archbishop George A. Stallings, Jr., UPF-USA Senior Vice President Tomiko Duggan, and Chairman of UPF-North America Dr. Michael Jenkins committed to sponsoring a prayer program on the Zoom platform that emphasized the importance of faith leaders in communicating the essential importance of faith in God, the fundamental unity of all human beings as children of that common Parent, and a love for all others as brothers and sisters regardless of faith tradition, sect or denomination, culture, race or

economic status.

A total of 120 rabbis, pastors, imams and other spiritual leaders have participated and offered their prayers in this endeavor. They reinforced UPF's belief that the importance of greater unity among leaders and communities of all faiths is a required response to the challenging time of the COVID-19 epidemic. It is vital to strengthening hope and maintaining our appreciation of the relationships that bind us together and inspire understanding and love.

<p>5<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 05/07/20 – 995 Viewers</p>   			<p>6<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 05/14/20 – 968 Viewers</p>   		
<p>7<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 05/21/20 – 430 Viewers</p>   			<p>8<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 05/28/20 – 340 Viewers</p>   		

These interfaith leaders have expressed their gratitude in learning from the insights, openness, spiritual generosity and kindness of faith leaders committed to different traditions, ritual practices, scriptures and theologies. They deepened and enlarged their appreciation of the universal need for God in all our lives.

Whatever name they use to call God, the Zoom participants all expressed that we stand on a common ground for peace, forgiveness, tolerance, love for humanity, and devotion to a higher purpose. We are all tasked to work together in building lasting peace and creating a society where we can live as "One Global Family Under God."

<p>9<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 06/04/20 – 1,100 Viewers</p>   			<p>10<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 06/11/20 – 670 Viewers</p>   		
<p>11<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 06/18/20 – 670 Viewers</p>   			<p>12<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Prayer, 06/25/20 – 503 Viewers</p>   		