Not all Christians share the beliefs currently expressed by voices on the far right that often dominate the public's perception of what the Church, or Christianity, teaches. In response to recent Supreme Court decisions, the ongoing "culture wars," and the unprecedented co-mingling of Church and State, we, as mainline clergy of Greece, would like to clearly state our Christian beliefs that:

- Our government and courts should not be dominated by the views of any one faith community. We believe that all citizens of this nation should have voice and vote regardless of their religious beliefs.
- Following the way of Christ means to follow the way Jesus lived, not just to follow a few selectively chosen scripture verses, taken out of context.
- Every person is a child of God and is uniquely precious in the eyes of God. All persons have value based on their created goodness regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, education or social status.
- Faithfulness means living our lives by what Jesus called the greatest of all the commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor. We believe that we demonstrate our love for God by serving our neighbors.
- We are to treat others with the same dignity and respect that we expect others to demonstrate towards us, as Jesus taught in the "golden rule."
- We have an obligation to care for the earth and maintain its health for generations to come.
- The State has an obligation to care for all its citizens, regardless of the personal choices individuals make about what they believe and how, or if, they worship, according to the dictates of their consciences.
- All children have a right to life which includes education, nutrition, social support, healthcare and equitable opportunities for success in life.
- Christianity is one way to know and understand the one we call God, Allah, LORD. There are many pathways to spiritual understanding, and they should all be respected.
- How women choose to receive care for their bodies in times of personal crisis should be a decision made between women and their health care providers without governmental interference.
- We can be free to live side by side, observing our own moral choices while not imposing them on our neighbors.

Our churches are safe places for any of our neighbors who feel threatened, abused, or disrespected by churches that embrace white nationalism, seek to disenfranchise them, or who work to deny them any of their civil rights. We stand ready to assist with compassion and confidentiality in any way we can.

In hope and confidence,

The Greece Ecumenical Leadership Team

Rev. Alan Daily, John Knox Presbyterian Church

Rev. Debs Duguid-May, Trinity Episcopal Church

Rev. Cheryl Frank, Greece Baptist Church

Rev. Steve Gretz, Greece Baptist Church

Rev. Gary Kubitz, Greece United Methodist Church

Rev. Aileen Robbins, Messiah Lutheran Church