



2833 Smith Ave Ste 225
Baltimore, MD 21209

t 301.727.2700
f 410.602.1351
office@cjvalues.org

Rabbinic Board:

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Director
Rabbi Dov Fischer
Rabbi Avrohom Gordimer
Rabbi Pesach Lerner
Rabbi Steven Pruzansky
Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld
Rabbi Aryeh Spero

Pastor Joey Steelman
Pastor Victor Styrsky
Pastor Dumisani Washington
3749 1st Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

June 12, 2017

Dear Pastors Steelman, Styrsky and Washington,

We write to deplore the behavior of the purportedly-Jewish group "IfNotNow" that deliberately disturbed Pastor Styrsky's sermon during services on Sunday, June 4, while you were celebrating the reunification of Jerusalem.

We concur entirely with the reported statement of Pastor Washington: "No one should fear being shouted down, bullied and harassed inside their house of worship, be it a synagogue, church or mosque."

To call East Jerusalem, Judea or Samaria "occupied" by Jews and to demand they leave is to advocate for the ethnic cleansing of Jews from their indigenous homeland. Ever since the Jews entered their Promised Land over 3000 years ago, they have never left it voluntarily. IfNotNow calls for Jews to be removed yet again.

It is extremely saddening that a Jewish group would promote a transparently anti-Semitic message by adopting a classic anti-Semitic tactic — the deliberate disturbance of pro-Jewish events. How ignorant must Jews be of anti-Jewish persecution before they unconsciously adopt such a hateful form of "protest?"

In facing an unruly mob invading your house of worship, you have truly experienced standing with the Jewish people. We thank you and your congregants for your love and support for Jews around the world, including in their ancestral homeland.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yaakov Menken".

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Director

with the Rabbinic Board by Unanimous Consent

cc: IfNotNow c/o ActBlue Charities, Inc.