



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

For Immediate Release
June 29, 2015

Contact: Jeremy Russell
Communications Manager
jrussell@jcrc.org
415/977-7417

**Bay Area Jewish Community Responds to
Arson Attacks on African-American Churches**

The San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, and The Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay released a joint statement today in response to arson attacks at African-American churches.

“The Bay Area Jewish community is deeply concerned that, in the last week, six African-American churches in the South have burned, at least three of which were targeted by arson. The attacks began just days after nine people were brutally murdered during bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights group that tracks hate crimes, has stated that the timing of these fires ‘may not be a coincidence.’

“While the cases of arson have terrorized the African-American communities of Knoxville, Tennessee; Macon, Georgia; and Charlotte, North Carolina, the attacks have received little mainstream media attention. The Bay Area Jewish community knows all too well the impact of hate-motivated violence and arson on our houses of worship. These vicious crimes targeting African-American religious institutions are a form of domestic terrorism intended to traumatize a community that is already besieged.

“We have reached out to African-American churches and community leaders in the Bay Area to offer solidarity and support. It is incumbent upon all faith and ethnic communities to oppose these horrendous acts and stand together against hatred.”

