

To Whom It May Concern,

I send you greetings of steadfast love and deep respect from Bend. The reason for my writing is to weigh in on key legislation coming up in the September special session in Salem. That's a lot of S words. Speaking of language, in recent months, I've been, uncharacteristically, using the F word on a consistent basis. This is significant and strange since I am a pastor and author rooted in the Christian faith tradition!

The F words come out as an act of prayer every time I read or see or hear another act of police violence in our state and our nation. We have an epidemic on our hands and we desperately need legislative action from our political leaders. I send you this email to lament police aggression in Oregon and to plead with you to consider supporting LC 17, 18, 19 and 20. Please make these bills a priority. Pass them with urgency! We need serious action because we cannot afford one more act of unnecessary aggression.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and for listening to the testimony of scores of other faith leaders from around our great state. I send you blessings from Bend because, indeed, I believe that you are blessed. As Jesus proclaimed from the mount, those who are peacemakers, pure in heart and hungry and thirsty for justice are truly blessed. I am pleading with you to use your political power as a blessing to the most vulnerable among us. I want to live in a state that protects and serves everyone, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or nationality.

Sincerely,

Tommy Airey

RadicalDiscipleship.net, Editor