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To Whom It May Concern:

In light of media reports of the mishandling by the Board of Trustees of serious allegations of sexual harassment and a stream of comments insinuating religious bias emanating from the President of Linfield University, we are calling for:

- 1) The Chair of the Board of Trustees and the President to step down
- 2) Implementation of guidelines on sexual harassment, and a process for investigating and sanctioning sexual harassment, and strict enforcement of guidelines that prohibit retaliation
- 3) Training for the Board on implicit bias, micro-aggressions, and antisemitism
- 4) Reporting and transparency on these issues

It is a grave cause of concern that not only has the President failed to foster a climate of accountability, but that he has used this moment to levy antisemitic innuendos and disapprobations against a distinguished Jewish faculty member who, as Faculty Trustee, has attempted to restore trust on the campus at large. We are disturbed that someone whose job is to lead has instead resorted to disparaging language about people of the Jewish faith. These old tropes of blame and misdirection have no place in a review of the matters at hand.

The psalmist says: "Guard your tongue from evil, your lips from deceitful speech. Shun evil and do good, seek amity and pursue it."

Linfield University is one of Oregon's most cherished institutions of higher education, and as such, should guarantee excellent safeguards for personal and academic freedom and dignity. We will continue to insist that no one, regardless of gender or religion or race, experience fear or intimidation, least of all in a hallowed learning environment.

We, the Oregon Board of Rabbis, representing all denominations – Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Renewal and Non-Denominational-- convey our unanimous urgency in calling for the Board of Trustees to take immediate action to address these matters.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Eve Posen
Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland
President, Oregon Board of Rabbis

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett
Havurah Shalom, Portland

Rabbi Michael Cahana
Congregation Beth Israel, Portland

Rabbi Abby Cohen, Portland

Rabbi Barry Cohen, Portland

Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker
Congregation Kol Ami, Vancouver, WA

Rabbi Tzvi Fischer
Portland Kollel, Portland

Rabbi Eli Herb
Temple Beth Shalom, Salem

Rabbi Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin
Emeritus, Temple Beth Israel, Eugene

Rabbi Daniel Isaak
Emeritus, Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland

Rabbi Rachel Joseph
Congregation Beth Israel, Portland

Rabbi Debra Kolodny
Portland's UnShul, Portland

Rabbi David Kosak
Congregation Neveh Shalom, Portland

Rabbi Brian Zachary Mayer
Religion-Outside-The-Box, Portland

Rabbi Sue Mauer Morningstar
Havurah Shir Hadash, Ashland

Rabbi Josh Rose
Congregation Shaarie Torah, Portland

Rabbi Ruhi Sophia Motzkin Rubinstein
Temple Beth Israel, Eugene

Laure Rutenberg
Gesher, Portland

Gary Schoenberg
Gesher, Portland

Rabbi Jonathan Seidel
Or haGan, Eugene

Rabbi Ariel Stone
Congregation Shir Tikvah, Portland

Rabbi Joseph Wolf
Emeritus, Havurah Shalom, Portland

Rabbi Mel Young, Portland