Ashland is United (AiU) is saddened and outraged at the hostage-taking that occurred at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022. Even though Beth Israel congregants held captive were hundreds of miles away from us, the reach of the assault was felt far and wide. We are relieved that those taken hostages are now safe. This incident is the latest in a series of antisemitic attacks in the US where Jewish Americans have been targeted and terrorized with increasing frequency in the recent years.

As an organization, AiU values respect, diversity and inclusivity. We celebrate differences even as we rejoice in our uniqueness. AiU has worked to create educational opportunities and build bridges so that we engage, support and advance a sense of belonging for all. We value all members of our community and together our community is stronger by their contributions.

We have educational resources available on our website intended to spark conversations specifically about the history of antisemitism and examine the power this ancient hatred has to shape thought, judgment, and behavior around the globe. Let’s all commit to think and act on the impact of antisemitism, racism, hatred and intolerance and what can be done to lessen incidences in our communities and the larger world.