

Parents Matter; Make the Pledge

We, the undersigned, proudly agree with the principles of Clean Up Samuels — a determined, goal-focused movement championing the integrity and accountability of the Samuels Public Library. Firstly, let's clarify: none of us are Roman Catholics. And while we respect every faith, to box our concerns as solely Roman Catholic misses the mark. This is a collective call from individuals of diverse beliefs, united in our stand for a community-centric library.

We are all supporters of the library system. In fact, like every Clean Up Samuels supporter, we're rooting for a well-resourced, publicly funded library. Yet, funneling more public money into the present structure of "Samuels Public Library" doesn't sit right with many members in the community. The vision for the Samuels Library is clear:

Public Ownership: Samuels Library should become a genuine public entity, not a private 501(c) non-profit. Its current structure allows for public funding, but zero public oversight, which is unacceptable.

No ALA Affiliation: We demand autonomy from the ALA and its overarching influence. Warren County should chart its own course without interference from outside entities.

Staff Revamp: Some content has been inappropriate for our youth. We've pursued official channels, raising our concerns, only to be ignored. This can't stand. We advocate for personnel change who align with community values.

Content Curation: Let's champion quality literature that uplifts and educates our youth, rather than limiting them to a particular narrative.

The objective remains clear and unwavering: to advance, not hinder, the library's growth. We come from diverse backgrounds, but our shared goal is to see the necessary reform in the Samuels Library. The community shouldn't have to foot the bill until the library properly reflects the community itself.

Signed:

- Pastor Kaipha Brown at The Browntown Baptist Church
- Pastor James Boyetter of Living Water Christian Church of the Shenandoah Valley
- Dale Carpenter of the Shenandoah Christian Alliance
- Bishop Larry Johnson of Front Royal
- Imam Khan of Khatme Nubuwwat Center