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JCRC Closely Monitoring Fire at Duluth's Historic Adas Israel Congregation

September 9, 2019

Minneapolis, MN – Steve Hunegs, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC), issued the following statement regarding the fire at Duluth's historic Adas Israel Congregation:

"The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC) is deeply saddened by the devastating fire that appears to have destroyed much of the historic Adas Israel Congregation in downtown Duluth, MN. The Congregation dates back to the late 1800s and the building's cornerstone was laid in 1901.

"We are in close communication with the leadership of Adas Israel Congregation and law enforcement in the Duluth area. The investigation into this incident is ongoing. Most importantly, we have learned that there are no fatalities connected to the fire at Adas Israel Congregation.

"As of 9:00 a.m., firefighters were still on scene. The Duluth Fire Marshall's office is investigating the 'cause and origin of the fire.'

"We thank the Duluth Fire Department and the Duluth Police Department for their swift response to this terrible incident. Our thoughts are with the courageous firefighter who was injured by falling debris while responding to the incident.

"As we approach the Jewish High Holy Days, we offer our full support to our fellow Jewish Duluthians. Already this morning, Duluth's Temple Israel generously opened its doors to members of Adas Israel as a temporary prayer and gathering space.

"The Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Federations established an [emergency fund](#) to support the immediate and long-term needs of Adas Israel Congregation. We thank you for your generosity at this difficult moment."

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As the public affairs voice of the Jewish community, the JCRC fights anti-Semitism and prejudice, advocates for Israel, provides Holocaust education, promotes tolerance and social justice, and builds bridges across the Jewish and broader communities.

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