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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Rep. Steineke Statement on Passing of Jerome Smith**

**MADISON** – Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke, Co-Chair of the Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities, released the following statement regarding the news that Pastor Jerome Smith, a member of the Task Force’s Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Development, passed away:

“I am incredibly saddened of the news that Jerome passed away earlier this week. Jerome’s work with the Joseph Project was a testament to his heart for community, making him an obvious choice to join the Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities. His passion for making his communities better and stronger was palpable during Task Force meetings and discussions, and his work within our committee will leave a meaningful legacy for the people he so fiercely advocated for. His family, friends, congregation, and community are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.”

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