

Adopted by the Session of Northminster, June 2020

*"Please let me stand."* George Floyd, May 25, 2020

As George Floyd spoke some of the last words of his life, his breath choked by a white police officer's knee pressed into his throat, he made a demand on all who have ears to hear. Like a stream finding its way to the river, Mr. Floyd's voice joins a cacophony of 400 years of reverberating Black voices that cry to our nation and our world for a true justice that makes room to stand, to live and to thrive for people of color.

As Christ's Church together, as a people who believe in the goodness and love with which God created all human beings, we condemn the unnecessary and unjust killing of George Floyd. Further, we seek to uncover and to confess the systemic sin that continues to marginalize, oppress and kill people of color. We acknowledge that we are all complicit and deformed by the sin and sentiment of white supremacy. White supremacy is an ideology based on the belief that white people are superior to other races. White supremacy also describes the policies and practices of our current society, which grants unearned and unequal privileges, protection, and power to white people and not to others. White supremacy is not just an attitude or way of thinking by people on the fringe; it is the air we breathe. It is a dominant paradigm that forms the foundation on which the norms, laws and rules of our divided society have been created; but indeed, it is not a reflection of the world that calls forward the Beloved Community.

What we cannot do as a Church of Jesus Christ, as people who belong to Jesus Christ, is to simply stand by. We commit ourselves and call upon our members, sister churches, and the people of our communities to take action that helps to interrupt and dismantle white supremacy. We further commit to tangible effort that pushes against racism in all its forms and locations.

On account of God's call to let the waters of justice roll down, let us enter now into prayerful self and collective examination, and choose a tangible action that changes the fabric of racism and white supremacy as we come to discover it in our own system. Let us commit to reporting these actions and outcomes to each other in an assembly of accountability and encouragement. Let us move forward to a world where standing together we also bow to the God who now helps George Floyd stand.

Resources to promote reflection and action regarding white supremacy is found at these links:

<https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/resources/>

<http://religiousinstitute.org/resources/anti-racism-resources/>

<https://medium.com/wake-up-call/a-detailed-list-of-anti-racism-resources-a34b259a3eea>