



Metropolitan Association Statement on Racism in America

A Call to Action

George Floyd was murdered in cold blood and in plain sight. He is only the latest black person whose life was snuffed out by a heartless, lawless, and criminal justice system for whom his life simply does not matter.

Mr. Floyd's name now joins a long list of murdered Black people, most recently Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, horrific losses that quickly drop from our news cycle, even as we witness other incidents like the one recorded by Christian Cooper in Central Park, as he was confronted by this country's insidiously pervasive casual white supremacist attitude that might not always lead to death, but often does. What many still fail to realize is that had there not been a video recording, Mr. Cooper's life might very well have been endangered simply by being hauled to jail, where he would have been further exposed to the coronavirus contagion, as well as the contagion of white supremacy beyond the range of cameras.

As leaders in the Metropolitan Association of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ—the most racially diverse Association in our denomination—we are sick and tired of being sick and tired. We want to say to our sisters and brothers, in a loving but prophetic voice today:

Stop saying “This is not who America is.” It is exactly who America is and always has been. Learn the real history of how this country benefitted from the labor of enslaved people. Stop saying “the criminal justice system is America is broken.” It is not broken, it is working all too well, according to the way it was originally and sinfully set up to favor the white, the wealthy, the well connected, the privileged. However, it *should* be broken, taken apart, dismantled and reassembled along the lines of justice and fairness if we choose to do so, and we had better do it now. We call upon our congregants to engage in Sacred Conversations to End Racism to begin to dismantle white skinned privilege and white supremacy. Become better educated about the “creation” of the culture of whiteness and to support making the considerable resources available to us readily available in our

churches. Let's start with a commitment to penalize false reporting, to break the back of the white tears/white privilege card.

We call upon our churches to get organized, and take action; and we recommend getting involved today with by signing up to support the Poor People's Campaign: "A National Call for Moral Revival" led by the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber or Faith in Action. Go to either website and sign up now to participate in a wide range of social justice initiatives. Do your work! Read, engage with people of African descent, begin the journey to dismantle white skinned privilege today! White folk who wish to get serious often ask us "what can we do? [To aid our work, a comprehensive resource list of 75 things that white people can do to contribute to the work of racial justice is available here and has, thankfully, been circulating widely.](#)

In solidarity,

#JusticeForFloyd

#JusticeForAhmaud

#JusticeForBreonna

#BlackLivesMatter