



OUTWARD-FOCUSED • THOUGHT-PROVOKING • BRIDGE-BUILDING • HOPE-RADIATING

Church of the Resurrection's Vision for Racial Justice

"What does the Lord require of me, but to do justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with my God?" - Micah 6:8

We lament the murder of George Floyd and countless other Black men and women whose names may or may not be widely known. We condemn the loss of these lives to violence fueled by racism and white supremacy. From slavery to Jim Crow laws to more insidious racial injustices, racism continues to harshly impact life for Black Americans today.

Enough is enough. **Black Lives Matter.**

"Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable." - Proverbs 31:8

We believe that all lives can't matter until all Black Lives Matter. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must condemn racism in every form, whether unconscious or conscious, systemic or arbitrary. Racism is sin, and it is antithetical to the gospel.

"We recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons." - The United Methodist Church, Social Principles, ¶162.A

Racism prevents all of us from experiencing God's kingdom here on earth. As Christians, we are called to demonstrate the courage and conviction to end racism. Each of us must acknowledge white privilege, address our biases, and recognize racial disparities as they exist. We must deeply repent. True repentance is a change of mind, that leads to a change of heart, that leads to a change of behavior. Each of us must take responsibility for doing all that we can to dismantle systemic racism. This work will be difficult and even painful. Radical change never comes without sacrifice.

Our Church has not yet become the fully inclusive reflection of God's kingdom that we yearn to be. We must intentionally include people of color at every level of our leadership and staff and within our congregation. We cannot allow this to be a momentary call for action. Instead, this must be an ongoing movement. We are committed to increasing the number of opportunities for our congregation across all campuses to learn from, listen to, and be led by Black people and all people of color.

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." - Luke 12:48.

The biblical call to justice demands that we work to reverse the scourge of racism. We will dedicate resources to overturning Kansas City's entrenched racial and economic divide. We understand that this disparity restricts opportunities for all people of color in housing, health, education, and employment, and limits their access to security and justice. We will work alongside community partners until Kansas City looks like the peaceable vision Jesus referred to as the Kingdom of God. If we are to love and serve God with our whole hearts, we need to work to eradicate injustice toward our neighbors. Our goal is long-standing justice and equality for Black Americans and indeed all people of color.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:35

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection
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