



**Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church**

1523 Fairmount Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

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*Our hearts, our minds,  
and our doors  
are always open*

June 11, 2020

Dear Beloved Community,

We, the Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church community, are deeply grieved by the killing of George Floyd by officers from the Minneapolis Police Department on Monday, May 25, 2020.

As a faith community present in St. Paul for more than 167 years, we acknowledge and confess that the survival and continuation of systems in our community that operate with systemic racism have caused great harm to our neighbors and family members within the black community and communities of color.

As a United Methodist Church, bound by our denominational *Book of Discipline*, we are committed to “confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.” (*UMC Book of Discipline*, Paragraph 5. Article V). We must do better to live out this charge.

We also seek—through this process of justice for Mr. Floyd and other victims of racist abuse by police—that our justice systems, including law enforcement, be overhauled so that people with black and brown skin no longer live under a knee of fear and oppression in our community and country.

To this end, the individuals and community of Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church commit to:

1. Listening to the pain and experiences of neighbors from communities of color.
2. Following the counsel of black and brown leaders on how to protest the death of George Floyd and how to work toward the redesign of systems that have been operating with racist practices.
3. Continually confronting and dismantling racism, oppression and injustice in systems and conversations wherever we find them.
4. Practicing our faith, following the leadership of Jesus to “love God with all of our heart, mind and soul, and love our neighbors as ourselves.” (Luke 10:27)

As we commit to this work for all who have been harmed by systemic and persistent racism and by those that espouse white supremacy, we pray for God’s peace and for relief in the form of comprehensive systemic change. We make this statement publicly and hold ourselves accountable to these commitments.

As a church and as a people, we add our voices to the demand for full and complete justice for George Floyd’s murder.

Sincerely,

Reverend Shawna Horn, Pastor

Jin Hur, Pastor, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Social Justice and Compassion Committee

- Andrew Lubar, chair
- Karon Caron
- Carol Dallman
- Maria DeLaundreau
- Linda Hucke
- Cindy Radtke
- Reverend Bill Schuster
- Judy Thielen
- Nita Hanson

Paul Howe, Lay Leader

Sandra Burrowes, Church Council Chair

Signed in Support by the People of Fairmount Avenue UMC:

Tom Ihlenfeldt  
Amy Dauplaise  
Carla Belistri  
Lori Neuberg  
Dan Thielen  
Natasha Radtke  
Jin Hur  
Kristin Matthews Long  
Stacey Boucher  
Amelie Horn  
Bruce Forbes  
Debbie Salinas  
Dave Hokanson  
Aaron Buesing  
Daniel Cole Mauleón  
Jennifer Root  
Janelle Kelly  
Verena Van Fleet  
Andrew Lubar  
Jesse Roy Nitzschke  
Cynthia (Cindy) Radtke  
Mike Kelly  
Noah Nieting  
Mindy Way-Johnson  
Loreen Blood  
Ericka Stooksbury  
Scott and Corrin Wendell  
Sirianna Hokanson  
Carol Hokanson