



Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church

1523 Fairmount Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

*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