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Presbyterian Church (USA)



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To our friends and neighbors in Willow Glen and beyond,

We, the Session of the Stone Church of Willow Glen, have recently taken the decision to hang a banner stating our belief that Black Lives Matter. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others by current and former law enforcement officers have made it clear to us that we must act.

As we act, however, we also confess that our action has come far too late. While our then pastor marched with Dr. King in Selma, in the half century since then we have corporately done and said little as black and brown communities have continued to be oppressed.

We confess that Stone Church is a predominantly white congregation in a predominantly white denomination, and we have inherited privilege that has not been afforded to predominantly black and brown communities. As a corporate body, we confess that through our actions and inactions, we have contributed to the oppression of black and brown communities. We repent from the sin of our silence, which has allowed those in power to maintain the status quo. We repent from the sin of maintaining our own comfort, which has prevented us from living the gospel by standing with the poor and the oppressed. From these and countless other sins, we repent.

We know that we will not be perfect in this repentance. We will stumble, we will make mistakes, and we may cause more harm. What we will not do is give up. We will not give up on our siblings in black and brown communities. We will not give up on the radically transforming grace of God in Christ Jesus. We will continue, prayerfully listening to the Holy Spirit as we are called to build an ever fuller expression of God's Kingdom on earth in opposition to the dual sins of white supremacy and racism.

We commit to continuing to take steps that make us uncomfortable. We commit to continuing to take steps that challenge our own preconceptions of the world. We commit to working in opposition to the unholy powers that have held sway for far too long.

We commit to listening to the voices of black and brown communities locally and beyond, to following their lead, and to working with them to achieve true justice and equality. We commit to studying and advocating for the changes needed to achieve these goals.

In short, we commit to truly loving our neighbors in black and brown communities as we love ourselves, as our Lord commands.

In Christ,
The Session of the Stone Church of Willow Glen

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