



ELIZABETH TOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

PRACTICING PEACE, SERVICE AND OPENNESS TO ALL

WORKING TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE

God's Call

We hear the call of our faith to:
do **justice**, love **mercy**, and **walk humbly**
with the God of Love (Micah 6:8)
continue the work of Jesus, **simply, peacefully, together**
practice **peace, service and openness to all**

Deeper Awareness

In response to this call, the eyes of the white majority members of our diverse congregation are being opened to:

- **centuries of systemic** racism during which people of color were violently enslaved, terrorized, lynched, imprisoned, and exploited economically to build the foundation of our nation
- **continuing dehumanization** of people of color through systemic racism, such as in housing, education, citizenship (voting rights), healthcare, law enforcement, employment, and economic development
- **racist remarks** and slights to which people of color are exposed every day
- **our implicit racism** formed by the culture into which we were born, live, and participate
- **our failure to recognize** the deep connections between our well being and the well being of people of color

We recognize our complicity in racism:

- each time **we fail to listen** to the stories and experiences of people of color
- each time **we contribute to racism** by our thoughts, words, and actions
- each time **we do not stand up** for people of color when we hear racist remarks or witness racist acts
- each time **we do not advocate** for people of color with our votes, our voices, our bodies
- each time **we benefit from racism** such as through generational wealth, and educational, employment and connectional advantages

Bolder Action

As a congregation we commit ourselves, individually and as a diverse body, to healing and justice making by:

- **building** genuine relationships with a diversity of people
- **developing** a deeper understanding of systemic racism [racism that is embedded as normal practice within society or an organization]
- **educating** all generations within our congregation and beyond about racism
- **discerning** the implicit biases in our congregational policies and practices and working to eliminate them
- **advocating for an end to racial injustice**

Challenge

We challenge all who read this statement of faith and commitment **to join us in the journey of working together toward healing and racial justice.**

Hope

Isaiah 58:6-8

"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your **healing** shall spring up quickly."