

Statement from the Session of First Presbyterian Church – Grapevine

Adopted Sept. 15, 2020

We are all the children of God. This is an essential foundation upon which our faith is based. Yet we live in a society where racism persists, where Black Americans and other groups are sometimes treated differently based on the color of their skin, where racial injustice can cost people of color their lives. The tragic killings of Black Americans this year, and the protests and social unrest that followed, stand as stark reminders that our nation is still struggling to overcome this sin which has tainted our history.

As Christians, we stand united against racism in all its forms and we acknowledge our responsibility to speak out against injustice. This principle was stated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which affirmed “its conviction that neither the Church as the body of Christ, nor Christians as individuals, can be neutral or indifferent toward evil in the world; affirms its responsibility to speak on social and moral issues for the encouragement and instruction of the Church and its members, seeking earnestly both to know the mind of Christ and to speak always in humility and love; reminds the churches that their duty is not only to encourage and train their members in daily obedience to God’s will, but corporately to reveal God’s grace in places of suffering and need, to resist the forces that tyrannize, and to support the forces that restore the dignity of all (people) as the children of God, for only so is the gospel most fully proclaimed.”

This is a time when we are called to speak out. The session of First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine is committed to the work of eliminating racism in our community. We acknowledge that we do not

have solutions to this problem and that, like society at large, we too are struggling to understand its many layers and manifestations. Therefore, we pledge to be in covenant together to engage on this issue and, guided by the Holy Spirit, respond as Christians.

We humbly submit to spread love and reject hate by:

- exploring concepts such as systemic racism and white privilege and their impact on our world;
- listening to the stories of those around us who have been marginalized;
- seeking counsel from leaders and organizations with expertise to share; and
- showing through thoughts, words, and deeds that the lives of Blacks and other people of color matter, as do all created in the image of God.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, preached an anti-racism message. He compelled us to love all of our neighbors regardless of their appearance or their station in life. He taught us to extend our love beyond race to other forms of isolation including religion, gender, oppression, and hate.

This resolution is the beginning of a long journey. We are committed to the hard work that lies ahead and ask our congregation to join us and look prayerfully within to consider how our actions can lead to a better world for others. May God lead us on the path of righteousness.