

STATEMENT FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



The Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church collectively grieves and is outraged that in the midst of a global pandemic, another equally insidious pandemic has once again arisen: the lynching of Black people. Our nation continues to wrestle with racism and white supremacy. They manifest themselves through the legacy of slavery, Jim and Jane Crow which over centuries has devalued Black life. We see this as an intentional pattern of racial oppression from 1619 to the present that has recently resulted in the lynching of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor among others.

This is the same immorality that redlines our cities, creates unequal wealth, relegates the majority of our Black and Brown students to second class education, and creates rich and poor health care systems that disproportionately impact communities of color; exposed during the COVID 19 crisis.

Continued

Our nation continues to define its core values and ideals based on exclusion. When the principled ideas and standards of justice continue to exclude Black, Brown, and Native people, we say, justice delayed is justice denied. In particular, we denounce the systemic obstruction of accountability in police misconduct that has resulted in untold pain in Black, Brown, and Native communities for decades. Since 1857, Lafayette Avenue has been a beacon of social justice in Brooklyn and nationwide. Whether it is police abuse of power or legislative abuse of policy, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church believes in the collective power of advocating for equal justice and equal opportunity for all. In the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., we are calling for “a radical revolution of values.”

Join with our community to maintain and expand the circle of this beacon in efforts which activate and focus new light that emerges from our lamentation, grief, and rage:

- Support Voter Registration and Safe Elections 2020
- Reformation of policing in NYC
- Matters surrounding incarceration
- Building partnerships and sharing information resources

Our collective rage must translate to unified, organized action. We invite you to continue to use your voice, feet and join us as we build a just world.

Signed,

The Social Justice Committee
of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church

June 6, 2020