

We agree that Black Lives Matter.

As students of the Bible, *we believe* that every human being is made in the image of God, and thus each one bears the dignity of their Creator.

As followers of Jesus and students of the New Testament, *we believe* that we are filled with the Holy Spirit and given the capacity to love our neighbor, and no one is not our neighbor. *We grieve* that even on our best days, we only imperfectly carry out this mandate. *We confess and repent of* our failures to love, along with our failures to divest from the systemic racism we inherit in our American society.

As people being made new by Jesus, living into the promise of the Kingdom of God, *we endeavor* to confess our sin, to repent of our complicity with wrongdoing, to examine our hearts and to know better and do better.

*We seek* to know the truth about how power is distributed in our society; *we determine* to hear the whole stories of our histories. *We seek* to end violence by word or deed against others because of race.

Since we are made new by our relationship with Jesus, *we seek* to take our new life into our communities, to work with others to build a new and different way in this life, while we wait for the next life. *We seek* to overcome silence by learning, doing, and saying things which pertain to flourishing for everyone.

*We hope* in these ways, to fulfill our vision, of being “a place for love and grace” for everyone.