

Hello Redeemer,

The past weeks have been a very challenging time with the issues of racism and injustice taking place in our country, highlighted by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

While communication denouncing racism has been made through special announcements and in the sermons, on behalf of our leadership I want to share with you Redeemer's stance on these matters, as well as how we are and will continue to engage racism, injustice and reconciliation as a church.

Our Posture:

We are *saddened, repentant, and grieved*. In 2016, our denomination passed an Overture on racism: <https://byfaithonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Overture-43-clean.pdf>. As a leadership, we stand behind these words and we commit to the ongoing work of racial reconciliation, starting with our own hearts and as a matter of discipleship in our church.

Our Approach:

We are going to Biblically engage through the "Prophet, Priest, and King" lens. In the Scriptures, Prophets had to do with *speaking* the truth of God's word. Priests had to do with *relational* aspects of faith - coming alongside people; Kings had to do with leadership and oversight, which can be translated into a *game plan/strategy*.

This approach will shape our teaching, our equipping, and our plan for discipleship. We recognize that discipleship in this matter must be on-going instead of a momentary response. Referencing Eugene Peterson, we want to engage racism with a mindset of a "long obedience in the same direction."

Our Plan:

In this season, we have been focusing on 4 "L's": ***Lament, Listen, Learn, and Long(er) Term.***

Lament: A few weeks ago (6/3), we had an all-church zoom prayer meeting that focused on lament, repentance, petition and trust.

Listen: Last week (6/10), we encouraged our folks to join the MNA Facebook live talk: A Time to Listen: Black Voices Speak. If you haven't done so, I encourage you to listen: <https://www.facebook.com/pcamna/videos/258090418776728/UzpfSTcwNzkwNTc5MzoxMDE1NzQ1MzAwMjY0NTc5NA/>

Learn: This week, I will be sharing some links/resources for our church members to listen to and read. This will not be an exhaustive list, but one to get the ball rolling.

Long(er) term: Behind the scenes, our leadership has been discussing *Partnership and Curriculum*

Partnerships - how we can partner and support African American and other POC ministries and churches.

Curriculum – how can we equip our people to engage this topic with the Scriptures and as a gospel community.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your patience. This season has been busy and challenging for all of us, including myself and our leadership. I wish we had communicated this to you earlier, to help provide clarity, assurance and direction. I want to not only apologize for the delay but also ask for your prayers as we navigate and grow together as a church. May Christ deepen our unity, give us humility, and be exalted in all we do.

For His Glory,
Paul