

# Statement on Racism

## Monroe Community Church

We confess that we have been mis-formed in many ways, not least among these being our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors regarding race. Steeped in a heritage of favoritism, we tend to judge the worth of others not only by God's standards but by extraneous factors such as skin color and ethnicity. We are prone to engage in racial stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. We are sluggish in our efforts to change those aspects of society that disadvantage members of racial minorities. We don't give sufficient support to those who have been negatively affected by racism.

We desire to be re-formed in the area of race so that our hearts will be more like Christ's. Such reformation will help us live in accordance with our mission statement, so we may:

- "Love God" by being disciples of his Son, learning from him that everyone is valuable;
- "Love People" by seeking healing and wholeness for those damaged by racism, and
- "Love the City" by living out a ministry of Biblical justice and racial reconciliation in our community.

To make ourselves available to such formation and as its outgrowth, we commit to:

- form relationships individually and as a congregation with diverse racial and cultural groups,
- listen attentively and humbly to members of various racial and cultural communities, learning about their racial wounds and the ways Christ ministers to and through them,
- regularly include diverse voices in our worship services and other church activities,
- provide a safe and welcoming space for all voices,
- forge engaged partnerships with persons representing a range of racial and cultural groups, learning and fostering ongoing dialogue,
- engage in regular self-examination and community conversations to help us discern the ways our thoughts and actions in this area fall short, and,
- informed by the above, act to repair the effects of racial injustice in our country, our community, our church, and in our own lives.