

To: African American Clergy in Greater Atlanta Presbytery and Beyond

From: Rita Dixon

I know that many of you, if not all, are hurting as I am about the policemen killing Black men and women. This latest one, the policeman with his knee on the neck of George Floyd for 7-9 minutes, is just more than I can take without crying out to somebody!!! Then on top of this a White woman in a New York park tries to get Christian Cooper killed by weaponizing racism. This is just too much for me ! My whole being is crying out!!!

I did talk with 2 very good friends last night and we lamented about these 2 events and the question, **“What Can we do?”** This question was asked at the end of Trinity’s Bible Study meeting last night. I am still living with it...**“What can we do?”** I refuse to concede that we are helpless!!! So I turn to you, my spiritual colleagues and leaders in my church family, with this question, **What Can We Do? It seems to me that our humanity, our Spirit, INSIST that we speak out, let our voice be heard individually and collectively.**

I have a suggestion and pray that you have many more. . . We can develop a letter writing campaign to targeted Places and people asking them to speak out, cry out, against these injustices. Just suppose that we write weekly letters and urge our congregations to write weekly letters also to place or person or office asking them to speak out publicly against whatever injustice we are targeting each week. For example, we can target such places as our Presbytery, General Assembly, US Justice Department, The President , Our governor, Minneapolis Justice officials, etc... Each person, group of persons, or congregation can target one place or person each week and flood them with letters on the issue of choice.

Right now I am motivated to call on everyone I know to use their voices to cry out against the murderous racist rage which has infected too many elected officials. I don’t believe they can help it. They have been infected by a history of racial oppression and it is worse than the coronavirus. Some injustices we have been forced to witness... children in cages at the border, Black People disproportionately dying from COVID-19 because of health challenges from the stress, the young man killed in February in Georgia by a white man and his son, etc, etc, etc,

I can hear some of our people saying letter writing will do no good. Letter writing can be an act of prayer for us. [If Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, or TikTok is more fitting for your context, then encourage people to use whatever means they have to let their voices be heard.]

It will do US good!!! WE are saying, to ourselves first of all, and to others “ I matter”, “this hurts”, and “I can act for myself and others”. This is a form of prayer. We are keeping ourselves conscious by weekly acting out our prayer for Justice. The results is up to God. We just prayerfully submit our letters each week. (let’s not substitute an email)

You can finish this. This is my offering for today. I love you and I am praying for all of us to find our voice, our dignity in the midst of forces that are trying to destroy us.