



National Black Presbyterian Caucus
Louisville Area Chapter – PO Box 3433 – Louisville, KY 40201-3433

June 3, 2020

This statement is issued in response to the senseless murders of Mr. Ahmaud Arbery of Brunswick, GA, Ms. Breonna Taylor of Louisville, KY, Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis, MN, and countless other Black persons in this Country

For over 400 years, the United States of America has failed to reconcile the systemic oppression and racial bias of Whites against Black people that began with chattel slavery and continues to this day. Jim Crow laws, segregation, redlining, the war on drugs, militarized policing, and the inequitable implementation of federal legislation have created a racist society in which the lack of biblical justice for Black persons has traumatized our communities for generations. No amount of anti-racism trainings or Christian platitudes have alleviated this problem. The White status quo seemingly has no desire to make the needed changes to rectify the systemic problem of racism that exists, especially in Louisville, KY. The March 2020 murder of Breonna Taylor at the hands of officers in the Louisville Metro Police Department has rightfully sparked civilian protests against “no-knock warrants” and other policing methods that led to Breonna’s death in her own home. Enough is enough!

Therefore, the Louisville Area Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus stands in solidarity with the protestors around the world who seek justice for Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd, three of the latest victims of racially-motivated crimes by police and private citizens. Also, we denounce all white supremacist groups and individuals who incite violence and criminal activity during this painful time in our communities.

In addition, we offer these actions for persons and congregations that want to aid in the cause of God’s liberty and justice for all:

- a. Pray
- b. Voice your disapproval of the disproportionate use of militarized policing and other racist policies that are enforced in Black, Brown, and poor communities
- c. Preach about and educate your congregations about systemic racism and its effects upon this country. Read Black scholars and authors to understand their perspectives on racism and privilege
- d. Partner with existing movements, anti-racism organizations, and Presbyterian churches in Black, Brown, and poor communities by providing financial and people resources to maintain the much-needed Matthew 25 ministries in these communities
- e. Decide in your personal life to use your privilege and position to affect equitable and life-giving changes for People of Color and other marginalized persons in our communities

The problems of systemic racism and implicit bias in this nation are deeply rooted, yet first steps must be taken toward its eradication so that we can truly be God’s beloved community.

No justice, no peace
Rev. Dr. Angela Johnson, President
Louisville Area Chapter