



HAMMOND STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Statement on Justice for Black Americans
Hammond St. Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ

The people of Hammond St. Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are saddened and outraged at the anti-black racism in our country that has led to the senseless deaths of many people in the custody of police, the murder of people engaged in everyday activities like jogging, the killing of people worshipping, arson of churches, and many other acts -large and small - of hatred by white Americans against our black brothers and sisters. We are dismayed at the toll these acts take on black people, including poverty, lack of health care, unemployment, and living with fear and despair.

Our faith compels us to speak out plainly and loudly against all racism. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated this moral imperative, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" and "there is a time when silence is betrayal." Dr. King told us that "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Hammond St. Congregational Church affirms the worth of all persons and acknowledges God's love for all people, as Jesus taught us. We commit to working to find ways to combat anti-black racism and all forms of racism, standing with, working with, and listening to people of color; holding white people accountable for their actions, and nurturing and encouraging feelings of love and respect.

Let us not be silent but raise our voices and our best efforts to replace oppression and violence with love and respect. We invite people of good will from all faiths to join in efforts to end racism.