

What do we mean when we say we are "people of faith working to dismantle racism"?

As people of faith we are called by God to work for racial justice; to seek to eliminate racism from ourselves, from each other, and from the institutions and the culture of our society.

We believe that all people are children of one loving God, and that all are precious in God's sight.

We use the term "dismantle" because we understand (or are developing an understanding) that it's not enough to individually avoid being prejudiced. Racism is a system that we all need to work together to dismantle, if we want an equitable and inclusive community and world.

\*\*\*\*

## **KEEP LEARNING**

Because racism thrives on white people:

- not understanding what people of color in this society experience,
- not understanding that white domination is prevalent throughout our country,
- not understanding systems of domination and subordination.
- not understanding how white people are advantaged by racism even if they don't want to be,
- not understanding that unless we are active against racism we are being complicit with it, and
- not understanding how all of us have internalized unconscious racial bias

we seek to keep learning more about racism in contemporary society on an ongoing basis.

## TALK AND LISTEN

Because racism thrives on silence, we seek to talk and listen - to bring it up, about it, and engage people in reflection on it.

## **CONNECT WITH OTHERS**

Because racism thrives on keeping people of different skin colors separate, we seek to constantly expand our friendships and relationships so we connect with others of all racial backgrounds.

## TAKE OTHER ACTION

Because racism thrives on the inaction of good people, <u>we</u> <u>seek to take action</u> to help dismantle racism. This may mean making donations and investments that promote racial justice; it may mean supporting political candidates of color and white candidates who prioritize racial justice; it may mean participating in demonstrations or speaking up and advocating for racial justice in meetings wherever we are; it may mean investigating policies and hiring practices in local businesses, schools, police departments and institutions of all kinds.



Please check out **www.coming-together.org** – a creation of the project initiated by our church.