

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship

Rooted in Christ. Sustained by community. Seeking justice and peace.



We at Rochester Mennonite Fellowship bear witness to the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless other Black people who have been victims of hate crimes and have experienced violence at the hands of the police. We grieve this loss of life. These killings are not isolated incidents. They are rooted in a much larger system of white supremacy and racism which has plagued this country for 400 years.

We confess that we have participated in this oppressive, racist system, both as individuals and as a community of faith. We lament the times we have remained silent, turned away from the suffering of others, and prioritized our own privilege and comfort over speaking and acting for justice.

Confession, lamentation, and public protest are important. But if these are the only actions we take, we will never see the necessary transformation of our communities, schools, healthcare system, economic structure, and criminal justice system.

We follow in the way of Jesus, a man of color who was killed by an empire, yet defied death. Systems of domination can and will be overthrown. Justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness will flow like a mighty stream.

As a fellowship, we commit to ...

- Listening to and learning from Black leaders in our community and beyond so we can understand the needs and priorities of those most deeply affected by racism. We are attentive to what the Movement for Black Lives and Black Lives Matter are asking for, and we call on others to do the same.
- Prayerfully discerning how we can use our time, skills, and financial resources to support Black-led organizations that are already doing justice work in Rochester.
- Participating in ongoing education about racial justice and reconciliation, Black history, and, for those in the congregation who are white, education about white identity and the benefits society gives simply because of skin color.
- Maintaining an antiracism group to hold our fellowship accountable for these commitments and for living out our expressed values of justice, peace, and equity for all people.

This is a moment of crisis and opportunity. May we all do our part to create a more just, peaceful world.