



## Statement of Racial Justice and Equity

This statement against racism is our collective response made up of a wide breadth of voices from our church family, and our prayer is for our church to respond in unity.

As a faith community at Fuquay Varina United Methodist Church, we stand united in Christ, believing that *all* persons are created equal. *"There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28 CEB) We also recognize that unity does not mean uniformity, and that God values diversity and the unique gifts each person brings to the table.

We call upon all members of our FVUMC family to actively reflect God's love and justice through our words, our deeds, and our actions. *"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."* (John 13: 34-35); *"and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:8 NRSV).

*As a community following Jesus Christ:*

We believe that all persons were created in the image of God, and because of racism, not all of our brothers and sisters have been treated with equity. *Genesis 1:26-27*

We believe that racism is a sin and therefore a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ.  
*The United Methodist Church, Social Principles, ¶162.A*

We believe racism has plagued our country for centuries and has caused great pain to all of God's children.  
*2016 Book of Resolutions, Resolution #3371*

We believe that all Christians are called to stand against systems of oppression in our society and to be on the front lines of repentance and reconciliation. *Psalms 44:24 New Living Translation*

We believe that God has put together a whole body in Christ. Each of us is a part of the whole body, and when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer with it. There should be no division within the body. *1 Corinthians 12:24-27*

*Christians have done wrong by using religion to justify hatred, racism, and mistreatment. As a church community:*

We confess that we have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart.  
We have failed to embrace people of all colors and failed to acknowledge our own prejudices.  
We have played a part in building and maintaining structures and systems of oppression,  
We have remained silent in the face of injustice,  
We have preached the rhetoric of love and unity without putting in the legwork,  
And we have used religion to justify hatred, racism, and mistreatment.

*We commit to the difficult and painful task of growing into a church that is actively anti-racist through:*

Hospitality: We commit to deepening Christian hospitality so that all racial groups are welcomed at our church.  
*1 Corinthians 24b-26*

Education: We commit to continue growing, through intentional learning, intentional teaching, intentional listening, and intentional worship practices such that we become a church where all voices are heard and valued. *James 1:19*

Advocacy: We commit to fighting for justice and equity for all peoples. *Luke 12:48*