

## **A Response to the Death of George Floyd and Subsequent Violent Protests from the Clergy of Lawrence Township**

We, the Clergy of Lawrence Township, are searching for meaningful ways to respond—as individuals and as faith communities—to the recent string of racially biased acts of violence and the variety of protests currently taking place in our communities and throughout the country.

We, the Clergy of Lawrence Township, are compelled to speak out in protest over yet another murder of an unarmed black man and the difficult reality of systemic racism which such an event uncovers. We come from different faith traditions, yet we are united in our belief that we must not stand idly by at so grave an injustice. To do so would be an utter and intolerable disregard for the well-being of our siblings of color.

At a time when so many throughout the world are dying from the coronavirus which robs us of our ability to breathe, Mr. Floyd's final words remind us that there are those within our community who cannot fully breathe because of the color of their skin.

Therefore, we, the Clergy of Lawrence Township, in recognition of the essential oneness of humanity, pledge ourselves to work together with the whole community to:

*Find the courage, through peaceful and non-violent means, to speak out boldly about the evil of racism and bigotry, and do whatever we can to create a hate-free community.*

*Find ways to honor our faith traditions by honoring all people.*

*Find the discipline to listen deeply to one another in the diverse community in which we live, across lines of difference.*

*Find healing by owning and learning from past mistakes.*

*Find the means of creating the unity necessary to advance along the path of constructive change.*

Motivated by the desire to bring about the best in the human spirit and understanding that this will require nothing less than a commitment to a path of systemic action, we, the Clergy of Lawrence Township, are dedicated to partnering with other leaders in the effort to promote the healing and integrity of our entire community.

**SIGNED:**

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