

Responding to Racist Violence as the People of God

Resource Center: www.episcopalchurch.org/responding-to-racist-violence

Your Episcopal Church Center Team (all emails are “first initial, last name@episcopalchurch.org”)

- The Rev. Charles “Chuck” Wynder, Staff Officer for Social Justice and Engagement
- The Rev. Isaiah Shabeequa Brokenleg, Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation
- The Rev. Melanie Mullen, Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care
- The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation and Creation Care

What does LOVE look like, for a faithful individual? Among other things ...

- **TELL** the truth when it's tempting to be quiet
- **SEEK** the stories of people who are different from you, especially those from the underside
- **ACT** and speak in ways that bring life, instead of tearing others down to build yourself up
- **REPAIR** what has been broken in your own life and community, as well as in our society and institutions (It doesn't matter if you broke it; you can be part of healing.)

What does LOVE look like, for a faithful citizen? Among other things ...

- **VOTE** for leadership at the local, state, and federal level who foster Beloved Community
- **CALL** on elected officials and authorities to support just legislation and policies
- **BE PRESENT** to the struggle for justice in the way to which you are called

What does LOVE look like, for a congregation? Among other things ...

- **PARTNER** with local police departments to build community relationships and develop accountability mechanisms AND with local organizations dedicated to justice and healing
- **ORGANIZE** circles for conversation and learning – consider using curricula like Sacred Ground, a film-based dialogue series on race and faith (www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground)
- **PREACH, PRAY & WITNESS** about the current issues – support at website listed above
- **OPEN** your church as a space of sanctuary and protection for protesters
- **PRAYER WALK** your community, to discover what's happening and where God is moving

What does LOVE look like, for a diocese? Among other things ...

- **MODEL** public witness and relationship with people seeking justice, especially on the streets
- **INVITE** congregations to provide sanctuary and protection to protesters
- **GIVE COVER** to leaders who labor for justice
- **ENCOURAGE** individual and congregational action and take it up as diocesan leaders

Questions for Further Reflection ...

1. What is your greatest anxiety or concern, given the current situation?
2. What gives you energy or inspires you to act, in the current situation?
3. What resources or relationships do you need most right now?

Additional Questions

1. In what ways are you already engaged in your community, especially across racial/cultural lines?
2. What is the racial/cultural, socio-economic make-up in a 1-, 3- or 5-mile radius of your church?
3. What is the racial/cultural make-up of your congregation? How does it compare to the community?
4. What gifts do you bring, as a church, that will be helpful for a time such as this?
5. How have you participated in healing and justice work in the past? How can you show up now?
6. How could you support and stand in solidarity with other congregations, especially in suffering areas?
7. What bible stories or wisdom seem to most apply in this moment?