

Statement on Racism from Pastors of the North Shore of Boston

The Bible clearly begins with a declaration and description that everyone was and is created in the image of God, and it beautifully concludes with God's redeemed people from every tribe, tongue and nation (Genesis 1:26-28; Revelation 7:9).

God commands us to love our neighbors, to act with righteousness and without partiality, unwilling to pervert justice (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; Deuteronomy 10:17; 16:19).

Jesus loves and treats with dignity people from all backgrounds and he teaches His followers to do the same (Mark 11:17; Luke 4:16-27; Luke 7:2-10; John 4; Matthew 28:18-20).

The Gospel of Jesus teaches us "that He broke down the dividing wall of hostility," creating in and for Himself "one new humanity" and so making peace, reconciling us to God and to one another (Ephesians 2:11-22).

We are called to be a light in the darkness, but for too long we have stayed in the shadows, and we have *not* consistently lived out these biblical principles.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent of the ways that throughout history we were complicit and indifferent toward racism in ways big and small. Because the small ways are the big ways. We believe that God desires justice and equality for all of his children, regardless of their skin color.

We are sorry for not speaking up and acting sooner.

We denounce racism in its systemic and individual expressions.

Moving forward, we commit to the work of racial reconciliation and anti-racism.

This work is not only for today, but for tomorrow and the years to come.

We commit to pushing against the current of racism, correcting the course that has been travelled for so long.

May it lead all of us closer to the Holy Horizon.