



## **Brief Statement from Lansing First Presbyterian Church to our City, Concerning the Death of George Floyd and the Ensuing Upheaval**

In light of these times of unrest, let there be no confusion or misunderstanding; these are our values and mission:

We believe Black Lives Matter.

We condemn all forms of racism, including systemic, institutional, and overt.

We condemn white supremacy both conscious or otherwise.

We believe that our own salvation is inextricably bound up with the salvation and liberation of the community in which we dwell—and by this we do not mean proselytizing, but rather that we are called to seek the wholistic welfare of the bodies and spirits of all.

We believe that we, as a predominantly middle class white church, are called to be true brothers and sisters to our community, and that it is our responsibility to educate ourselves on our own racism, and then, in accordance with our Scriptures, repent with hope and assurance of the grace and mercy of God.

We believe that Jesus calls us to stand in solidarity with the African American community, as well as all communities of color, sexual preference, or gender identity, whose cries of anguish and injustice must no longer be avoided by the majority white community. We cannot be silent, we must speak out.

We believe in peaceful demonstrations, but that any condemnation of looting and violence should never again become an excuse to ignore the conditions that caused the looting and violence in the first place.

We believe that our national leadership is stoking division and violence in our country, and call upon it to cease immediately.

We believe that positive change is possible and that we are called by Jesus to be agents of this change, in communion and solidarity with all individuals and communities—religious and secular, Christian or otherwise—who also seek peace with justice.

*Rev. Stanley Jenkins and The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Lansing*