

Dear students,

We write as we collectively grieve the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, just three of many Black Americans who have lost their lives to deadly forces enshrined in institutional racism in this country. We also grieve the disproportionate number of deaths of people of color due to COVID-19 in these few past months. As protest and civil unrest unfold before us, we know that members of our community -- especially our Black students, faculty, and staff -- are not only grieving but also frightened, angry, and yet also deeply engaged in positive action for social change. **Please let us know how you are doing and what you need. We are here, ready to listen.**

We write to confirm our commitment to equity and inclusion and to condemn these and all acts of violence, prejudice, and hatred. We write to promise that we will continue striving to recognize and combat racial injustice, though we know we have much to learn and much more work to do.

We write to encourage you to seek support or offer support in whatever way you can or need -- reach out to one another and to your professors, staff, and mentors, [donate time or money](#) to the cause, [read and stay informed](#), use your voice, your influence, and your Sewanee education to lead for change.

Your fellow student orgs have shared these powerful statements and organized these fundraising campaigns. If your organization has a statement or link to add, please share it, and we will update the list.

Please remember, there are a variety of campus resources to support you: the [Wellness Center](#) will be offering focus group opportunities to discuss current mental health concerns and needs on June 4.

Other campus resources include: [All Saints' Chapel](#), the [Office of Civic Engagement](#) and [Dialogue Across Difference](#) programs, the Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (led by Provost Nancy Berner), the [WICK](#), the [Center for Multicultural Affairs](#), [Sewanee's NAACP](#), among others. Let us know how we can help get you connected or support you in your work and in your grieving.

As we struggle to understand what the fall will bring, we also remember and hold fast to the true values of EQB, and we look forward to being together again to continue the hard work ahead.

Associate Dean Sandlin
Dean Papillon
Dean Gentry