

June 9, 2020

We, the undersigned students, faculty, and staff of the School of Theology [join with the Sewanee Community](#) and so many others in expressing our grief, outrage, and commitment to respond to the ongoing violence against black and brown people. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd are beloved children of God whose lives were unjustly cut short by our country's ingrained systems of anti-black racism.

We lament "[the long line of senseless, racist murders.](#)" We mourn continuing systemic injustices in our country, and we stand in solidarity with Sewanee's African American students, alumni, faculty, and staff in pain, fear, anger, and work for change.

As current and future leaders of The Episcopal Church, "we repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf." We denounce the powers of white supremacy at work in the world. We call out our silent complicity, privileged inaction, and "[premeditated indifference.](#)" We confess that our institutions continue to benefit from systems of oppression.

And yet, we trust in the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ who sustains the suffering, liberates the oppressed, transforms sinners, and calls us to commit to the work of justice.

Following the way of love, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls us to make "[the long-term commitment to racial healing, justice and truth-telling.](#)" So, with God's help, we deepen our commitment to

- *Amplify* the presence and perspectives of African Americans in our classrooms, research, and worship
- *Expand* anti-racist training that equips church leaders to be catalysts for change
- [Incorporate the study of how slavery and its legacies have marked the history of our institutions](#)
- *Facilitate* meaningful cross-cultural ministry experiences
- *Transform* the seminary's artistic representation to reflect the witness of the global church
- *Recognize* publicly the Rev. Joe Green as an exemplary School of Theology alumnus and one of the first African Americans to graduate from the University of the South
- *Bear* prophetic witness to the oppression of others
- *Work* with the wider Sewanee community toward collective action for systemic change

With these commitments, and with God's grace, we hope and work for God's beloved community.

Faithfully,

Malcolm McLaurin	Mercedes Clements	David Stark
Deborah M. Jackson	Marie Smith	Tommy Drake
Ben Cowgill	Judith Marklin	Michael Harber
Rebecca Walton	Catherine Ann Ballinger	Rachel Eskite
Collin Cornell	Ashley Simpson	Marcella Robinson
Keith Davis	Derek J. Quinn	Andrew Thompson
Allison Reid	J. Neil Alexander	Shari Harrison
Lathrop Mosley	Leigh C. Preston	Meghan J. Mazur
James F. Turrell	Benjamin King	John Simpson
Sarah Hess	Adam L. Dawkins	Andrew C. Sloan
Sarah E. Limbaugh	Melissa M. Hartley	Romulus Stefanut
Paul Schutz	Cynthia Crysdale	Elizabeth Grohowski
Christy Hodges	H. Walker Adams	Julia Gatta
Christopher L. Schwenk	Helen Vanek-Bigelow	Connie Patton
Mary Ann Patterson	Elsa S. Bakkum	Gabriel Perkins-Lawrence
Heather Winkler	James Tengtenga	Shelby Bowles
Ted Clarkson	Graff Wilson	Amy Bentley Lamborn
Mary Foster Parmer	Rebecca Wright	Elizabeth Carrillo
Karen M. Meredith	David Cobb	Robert MacSwain
Ethan Gerald Whitfield Stroud	Mark A. Lobb	Adam Nygren
Charline Butner	David Boyd	Shadreck Kwagwanji
Casey Perkins-Lawrence	Sheri D. Kling	Erica S. Rozolsky
Ian Williams	Charles McClain	Robert Delvin
Taylor Dinsmore	David M. Faulkner	John O. Blount
Walter B. A. Brownridge	Suzanne L. Cate	Evan D. Garner
Brandt Montgomery	Joshua D. Bowron	Jason Emerson
Fred Devall	Anne Downs Richter	Jane-Allison E. Wiggin-Nettles