

**The Order of the Gown** stands with our Black students, faculty, staff, and community members in the wake of racial injustice that is ravaging the United States. This is not a time to claim neutrality or stay silent. Sewanee strives to uphold EQB: dwelling in unity means standing up for one another and speaking out. Do what you can. Black Lives Matter.

**Sewanee Student Government Association** stands with our Black students, faculty, staff, and community members during this time of racial injustice and always. We will stand strong, we see you, we hear you. Black Lives Matter.

**The Sewanee Greek Community** stands with the Order of the Gown and Sewanee SGA to support our Black students, faculty, staff, and community members. We must all continue to work on being kinder and more inclusive individuals in order to become a stronger community. We see you, we hear you, and we are with you. Black Lives Matter.

On behalf of the **African and Caribbean Student Association** at Sewanee, we send our condolences to the countless families who have unjustly lost a loved one. Part of our mission to educate our communities about the various African and Caribbean cultures/history stems from the want to dismantle ignorance and insensitivity. Africans and Caribbeans are victims of racism and sometimes victims of hate crime around the world. Our goal is not just to make an impact on Sewanee, but on other communities as well. Nonetheless, it is necessary that we take action steps to convey that our mission statement runs deeper than a statement just for a college organization; it is a mission statement we truly believe in and apply in our everyday lives. Having said this, we use our platform, sign petitions, donate, and raise awareness about our community and its people. In doing so, we incite change.

On behalf of the **Hispanic Organization for Latino Awareness**, we would like to stand in allegiance with the #BlackLivesMatter movement, as part of our moral duty to support our fellow minorities. We would like to take the time to acknowledge and mourn the unjust murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor as well as the countless individuals killed, harmed, or in any way affected by racial injustice.

**Theta Pi** is an organization where Black women are welcomed and loved. We powerfully denounce racism and police brutality against Black people and emphasize the need to include Black women when discussing the topic of racial injustice. To act otherwise would be a failure to the Black women that call Theta Pi home. Black Lives Matter. Black Women Matter. All donations will go to the Louisville Community Bail Fund, an organization supporting protesters on the frontline. Please support us in our efforts through [donating what you can](#).

In wake of recent and tragic ongoing events, **Phi Kappa Epsilon** is raising money specifically for the Black Visions Collective. In conjunction with Theta Pi, Fiji, and many other Sewanee Greek organizations, we are raising money in support of Sewanee's Black students, faculty and community members. As an organization, PKE prides itself on community service and it would be against our community's interest to stay silent during racial oppression and violence. We hope to use our platform to spread awareness to help the BLVC, toward which 100% of our proceeds

will go.

Black Visions Collective is a black, trans, queer-led organization that focuses on dismantling systems of oppression and violence and shifting the public narrative to create transformative and long-term change. They are based out of Minneapolis, serving the twin cities and greater Minnesota area. To learn more about the BLVC organization, visit this page:

<https://www.blackvisionsmn.org>

In light of recent events in our nation, our sorority, **Alpha Delta Theta**, will be taking action in the fight against racial injustice and inequality in the United States. From the murders of Ahmaud Aubrey and Breonna Taylor earlier this year to the more recent murder of George Floyd at the hands of police, we can no longer be silent. It is imperative as a campus organization that strives to cultivate coalescence that ADT not only condemn racism, but be actively anti-racist as well. We call on all members of the Sewanee community, and our nation, to join us by raising our voices and by donating to groups at the front lines of the Black Lives Matter movement. We have seen the power of social media campaigns to raise money for groups such as the Minnesota Freedom Fund. In an effort to bring awareness to a campaign closer to home, Alpha Delta Theta is hosting a fundraiser for the Nashville Community Bail Fund, which works to make sure that one's income does not determine how long one stays in jail. More information on this organization can be found here: <https://nashvillebailfund.org>

You can easily give to our cause by donating to our Venmo: Sewanee-ADT. While we cannot be on the Mountain to fight against racial inequality in person, we can come together in supporting campaigns like this. Please join us.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed by a member of the Minneapolis Police. His final words revealed to the world how our nation's past eerily follows us; a past that has yet to be reckoned with or reconciled, and has continued into the present day. **Phi Gamma Delta** is an organization that stresses brotherhood and unity, and to sit idly by while racist atrocities occur in America would be failing many of our own brothers. Because of this, we, the organization of Phi Gamma Delta, Chapter Gamma Sigma, vehemently denounce all racialized police misconduct and the senseless killings of Black people. Racism and injustice have no place anywhere in the world. All [donations will go to the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota](#), an organization dedicated to combating injustice.

For over 100 years, the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** has fought to advance justice for Black Americans and other racial minorities. As we mourn the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, we stand with our national leadership in calling for an end to racial violence against Black Americans. **The Sewanee unit** will continue to hold our country and our institution accountable for their responses and actions in this time of crisis. Our prayers are with our fellow Black students, who are in a state of mourning at this present moment. Please know that our unit is here to serve our campus community. For more information about our chapter, how to get involved in our work, or a link to resources that advocate for racial justice and for Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, please visit our Instagram and Twitter pages.

Instagram: sewaneenaacp

Twitter: SewaneeNAACP

The **Bairnwick Women's Center** stands with the black community in Sewanee and beyond in these difficult times. We are here to listen and offer support in whatever ways we can. Like so many of you, we are heartbroken and grieving the recent violent and racist deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, as well as the many, many individuals who suffered as a result of our nation's cruel and prejudiced past. Even from a distance, the Wick will continue to uphold its mission statement of educating and empowering the Sewanee community through promoting social justice, equality, and voice. To the black community, we see you, we hear you, we support you. Please let us know what we can do for you. For now, we are supporting the fundraisers established by Sewanee Greek Life and calling all individuals to donate if they are able. As always, **BLACK LIVES MATTER**.

The **Sewanee Jewish Association** extends its hand in solidarity with Black people in Sewanee and around the country. Our moral traditions, the principle of Tikkun Olam ("healing the world"), and our history all demand that we listen, learn, and support our Black brethren in their struggle. Black lives matter.

As the rabbi and activist Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote: "indifference to evil is worse than evil itself...in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible."

We encourage those who can to donate to their local bail funds, many of which are listed [here](#).

The money given to these organizations will help allow protesters arrested by police to post bail.

Stay well,  
בלייבן געזונט,  
The SJA

Sewanee's **Community Engagement House** stands in solidarity with its Black students and definitively stands against the systematic racial violence that has been hurting Black Americans for the last centuries. Part of community engagement is listening, understanding, and responding to its people; it is practicing empathy, showing care, and providing support when support is needed. **To our Black students, faculty, staff, and community members: We hear you. We see you. We feel for you. We love you, and we stand with you.** When one member of our community is hurting, we all are. We are sorry that when we say the names of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and the many others before them, we do so in memory of them. May they rest in power. This is a time of grief and sorrow, and a time we share with you. We are sorry that in moments like these, it is far too easy to see the shortcomings and limitations of an institution, of its community, and of America. We cannot speak for everyone, but we will speak for us: **we will do better**. In the following semester, our goals are not only to bring about general community engagement with the surrounding towns outside Sewanee but to also engage with its Black students and students of color and the Black communities and communities of color that remain within the university's vicinity.

The [link](#) here is an extensive list of resources for how to help, where to get information, where to donate, and how to act.

For allies: Use your privilege to the betterment of Black lives; use your privilege to uplift them.

Rumi, the 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic scholar, and Sufi mystic, once said, “Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”

Change yourself, before you seek to change the world. And once you do, don’t stop.

- If you are **white**, please know that mistakes can happen, even when we continually strive for self-awareness and for a more equitable society. Sometimes you say the wrong thing; you do the wrong thing; you mess up, and you miss the point. Apologies matter, and in moments of hurt, the greatest act isn’t one of protest or civil disobedience (though that certainly helps)—it’s an apology. Learn how to acknowledge and take accountability, own your guilt, and name specific wrongs. Avoid blame-shifting and passive voice, make amends, and know that the apology should not be offered to make you feel better. If you are in need of anti-racism resources, [you can find some here](#).
- If you are a **non-Black student of color**, please understand that the term “people of color” has its limits; in the words of activist Dylan Marron, “It is impossible to unsee the way Black people are routinely mistreated, marginalized, oppressed, imprisoned, and abused by laws and groups that create and enforce those laws. It is also becoming more and more clear that the mistreatment of Black people is in fact proof of the system working, not failing... Allyship is not about lumping us all together and finding the ways we are all the same, but finding the \*points\* where we intersect and using those points to understand & advocate for each other, while also being aware of the many points where we don’t intersect, and respecting those too.”

Finally, here is a list of some of the Sewanee-affiliated organizations fundraising for those who are dedicated to the pursuit of justice for Black Americans and for their advancement.

- [Theta Pi Sorority](#), for the Louisville Community Bail Fund: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/theta-pi-for-black-lives>
- Phi Kappa Epsilon, for the Black Visions Collective: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/pke-for-black-lives>
- [Alpha Delta Theta](#), for the Nashville Bail Fund: Venmo @Sewanee-ADT
- Phi Gamma Delta for the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/innnesota-aclu-fundraiser-by-sew...>
- [Kappa Delta at The University of The South: Sewanee](#), for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund: Venmo @sewaneekappadelta

Signed,

Community Engagement House Co-Directors