



The Presbytery of  
**DONEGAL**

## Statement from The Presbytery of Donegal Leader Team on Racial Injustice

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We just celebrated Pentecost on Sunday, May 31. Pentecost commemorates the unleashing of the Holy Spirit on the world and the empowering of the church to reach the world with the gospel. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did not discriminate based on race, gender, or ethnicity. Instead, “all were filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:4)

But we are still sinners and live in a broken and fallen world. We do not take the lead of the Spirit; instead consciously and subconsciously we participate in unjust systems that perpetuate discrimination, prejudice, and racism. It was those very systems and our participation in them that led to the murder of George Floyd. We grieve for him, as well as Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many more African Americans created in the image of God.

Let us be very clear—racism is sin. It is utterly contrary to God’s Word incarnate in Jesus Christ. It is time for us as the church of Jesus Christ, to denounce racism and repent. It is not enough to feel bad. It is insufficient to leave change to others. We need to stand with our African American sisters and brothers – and all those who are oppressed - in the fight for justice and equality.

So let us pray that the Holy Spirit, who so long ago blew through that beautifully diverse crowd at Pentecost, would blow through us now and enable us to hear the voices “of peoples long since silenced”. (Confession of 1967) May the same Spirit convict us and set a fire in our bones, a passion for justice that cannot be quenched,

Until all of God’s children are created equal,

Until the knee of injustice is removed from the necks of the marginalized,

Until hatred no longer hunts down the innocent,

Until we are able to sacrifice what is comfortable for what is right,

Until the weapon of fear is traded for the spirit of peace,

Until ears are open to hear the cries of the oppressed,

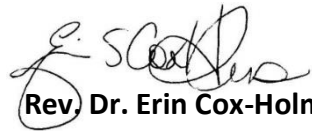
Until hearts are open to confess the sins of commission and omission,

Until everyone has the opportunity to thrive,

Until the world is transformed and renewed, and all people are gathered in the Spirit of justice and peace.

May we as a church be liberated from our complacency and apathy. May God move us from status quo to transformation. Let us remember that our highest calling is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

In Christ's love and power on behalf of the Presbytery of Donegal Leader Team,



**Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes**  
Executive Presbyter



**Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson**  
Stated Clerk



**Rev. Allison Beaulieu**  
Moderator of the Presbytery



**Rev. Matthew Randolph**  
Vice Moderator of the Presbytery  
& Co-Moderator of the Leader Team



**Rev. Sarah Kneier**  
Co-Moderator of the Leader Team

(The Leader Team of the Presbytery of Donegal's primary responsibility is to embody the Guiding Principles of the Presbytery of Donegal, the 48 congregations making up the Presbyterian Church (USA) presence in York County, Lancaster County, and Chester County, PA and northern Harford County, MD. Other institutional information is for identification purposes only.)

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Rev. Robert Birch	Leacock
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Rev. Patty Stoltzfus	HR
Ruling Elder Douglas Good	Highland
Rev. Sarah Kneier (Co-Moderator)	First, Mount Joy
Rev. Scott Szabo	Oxford
Ruling Elder Dianne Yuninger	Leacock
Ruling Elder Ellie Grove	New Harmony
Rev. Allison Beaulieu	First, York
Rev. Matt Randolph (Co-Moderator)	Donegal
Ruling Elder Stephanie Borger	First, York
Ruling Elder Rebecca Brown	Avondale
Rev. Yung Me Morris	Bethany, Mendenhall
Ruling Elder Jesse North	First, Lancaster
Mrs. Christine Wells (ex officio)	Presbytery Staff
Rev. Dr. Erin Cox-Holmes(ex officio)	Presbytery Staff
Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson (ex officio)	Presbytery Staff