

*“What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8*

## TOGETHER IN WITNESS

*Having observed with grave concern the untold numbers of unjustifiable deaths of people of color, the excessive use of force, and other ongoing explicit and implicit instances of racism around our country, the undersigned members of the Cranford Clergy Council endeavor to stand firmly for justice, civil discourse and mutual respect. We offer this statement of common resolve:*

- We profess our faith in a God Who is sovereign over *all* nations; Who is just, merciful and, above all, loving; and Who has created each person in God’s image;
- We strongly denounce all violent acts and hate crimes from any source. These actions are in direct contrast to the desires God has for the human community, including the promotion of peace, justice, equality, humility, inclusion and grace;
- We strongly denounce the reprehensible propaganda and hateful speech of white supremacy and all those who propose and defend the beliefs and actions and symbols of such groups (e.g. The KKK, Neo-Nazis, white nationalist groups);
- We strongly denounce the use of any of our Holy Scriptures to justify violence or oppression of marginalized groups; these are aberrant distortions that serve to tear down humanity, instead of building it up;
- We implore all residents of Cranford, especially those in our own worshipping communities, to resist accepting these deplorable words and actions as in any way tolerable. At this moment in time we particularly encourage intentional discussion between and among members of our congregations regarding racism and the way it influences our daily experience;
- We pledge ourselves and encourage all residents of Cranford to pray and to discuss together proactively to build bridges of mutual trust, understanding, and inclusion among all individuals and groups;
- We welcome the work and encourage participation in the Cranford Township Equity and Inclusivity Initiative. This work must start with respect for all aspects of the diversity of our community.

Yours, in faith –