

Solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement

We, the congregation at Parkminster United Church, express our love and support for the Black Lives Matter movement. While we as individuals are at different places on our racial justice journeys, together we commit to deepening our understanding of systemic racism and the roles we play within these systems. Together we commit to learning to work against racist oppression in its many forms.

We believe that all of us are beloved children of God. We also believe that the history of, and present-day reality for, Black people in Canada and the US has made the Black Lives Matter movement a vital tool for realizing Dr. King's vision of a Beloved Community – one in which poverty, racism and militarism are replaced with justice, compassion and radical hospitality.

We honour the connections between Black, Indigenous, and Black Indigenous peoples, who share centuries of being deliberately and disproportionately hurt by white systems of oppression, and who also share centuries of courageous resistance. We honour the struggles of all people of colour in Canada as they engage with systems—and people within those systems—who see whiteness as the default. We honour BLM for its stance that “We work vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension, all people,”¹ because we believe, along with Dr. King and Maya Angelou, that none of us are free until all of us are free.^{2,3}

¹What We Believe, Black Lives Matter

²Martin Luther King, Jr., The Negro and The American Dream (January 2, 1961, speech delivered at Municipal Auditorium, Savannah, Georgia.)

³Maya Angelou, CNN Interview, Aug 28, 2013 (2:22)