

Dismantling Racism

Statement of Faith and Prayer Regarding White Privilege and Anti-Racism

United Church of Ferndale

Approved April 25, 2021

Christ teaches us to love one another. This means everyone -- all colors of humanity, all gender orientations and expressions, all beliefs -- without exception.

We recognize the long path ahead of us to truly dismantle racism in our church and society. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide us towards a clear understanding of these principles:

- Listen respectfully when people tell you about their experiences. Believe them. Don't force people to represent anything other than their own individual thoughts and experiences.
- Respect process. Be creative. Allow emotions to be expressed and give time for relationships to develop. Try not to become dismissive or defensive as such attitudes upset process.
- Be patient. Our longstanding racial and societal problems took centuries to develop, and racist attitudes and structures will take time to dismantle.
- Study history. Our written and oral record comes with a bias, so insight will require honesty and a commitment to the truth.
- Action must follow study. We must seek purposefully to bring about equity, justice and peace. We must set out to positively change church and societal structures.

Prayerfully, we ask the Creator to free us from what holds us back in our thoughts, words, and actions, so that we can seek equity, justice and peace for all.

May it be so. Amen