

Dear Church,

We come before you today, asking that you stand with us as we declare FaithBridge a church dedicated to combating systemic racism. We invite you to grow with us as we work to create a culture and community that is safe and welcoming for all people.

As part of the body of Christ and the United Methodist Church, we begin by remembering our baptismal covenant. We have vowed to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of our sins. We have accepted the freedom and power God has given us to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. As followers of Jesus, we reject racism and declare it a sin. We commit to challenging unjust systems of power and access.

In order to do these things, we will actively engage in education and in the work it takes to build bridges with Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC). We will love and welcome all regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, age, ability, economic status and mental and physical health. We will engage in efforts to stop violence and unequal treatment towards the BIPOC community. We will be a place of welcome for all, while also challenging views in order to encourage growth, compassion, and understanding.

As part of our plan to actively engage in this process, our action plan is as follows:

1. Continue growth in education and understanding with a summer book study of "Me and White Supremacy" by Layla Saad
2. Build an understanding of culture within church staff and leadership, working independently and together to understand values and beliefs, engage in education on different cultures in our surrounding area, grow in knowledge of the historical realities that have impacted certain cultures, and recognize that no one culture is necessarily normative or superior.
3. Seek opportunities to partner with local organizations; for example: Black in Boone, NAACP, Poor People's Campaign...
4. Disseminate to the congregation a list of local Black owned businesses and choose to support them
5. Create an anti-racism team as a part of the Outreach Team that will continue this work within the church and in the community

We, as FaithBridge United Methodist Church, are called to be a bridge of faith for the disconnected and to love without limits. We will love boldly and continue our journey of discipleship for the transformation of the world. Please join us on this journey in prayerful support and however God leads you.

To get more involved or ask clarifying questions, contact us at info@faithbridgeumc.org or call us at (828) 295-8333.