

Approved by the Session – May 15, 2022

The Ministry on Racial Equity (MORE) Team of White Memorial Presbyterian Church seeks to help our church family come closer to fulfilling Jesus's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves by: (a) bringing ourselves — and those within the wider church who are interested — to more conscious awareness of racism (and subconscious racism); (b) to provide educational opportunities for the congregation to learn more about racial equality; and by, (c) increasing our congregation's capacity to speak and act courageously to embrace racial equity.

WHY: The Team is named "MORE" to remind us that our goal is ultimately to be *MORE* loving, *MORE* healing, *MORE* aware, *MORE* inclusive, *MORE* courageous ... *MORE* like Jesus. Our work has been guided by the Word of God as revealed in scripture, as well as by our own Presbyterian confessions, which include, but are not limited to:

Mark 12: 29-31 (NRSV)

Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

John 13:34 (NRSV)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

Confession of 1967:

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ, and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.

WHAT: Guided by the Holy Spirit, the MORE Team is committed to hopeful tasks toward reconciliation and unity with all our brothers and sisters in Christ. The MORE Team endeavors to offer opportunities and events available to all within our church and greater community. While this work can be uncomfortable, we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us into deepened faithfulness and greater understanding.

WHO: The MORE Team welcomes anyone who feels a stirring around the topic of racial equity to its ministry, programs, and team meetings. This stirring could be to have conversation, to build and increase of understanding, and/or to address issues of racism or unconscious bias within our communities. The MORE Team recognizes that people are in different places along the spectrum of thought about racial justice and seeks to meet people where they are.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in becoming involved in the MORE Team, please contact the church office.

GOVERNANCE: This above document serves to replace the previous document approved by the Session on April 11, 2021. It was approved by the Session on May 15, 2022. Like all ministries within the church, the MORE Team reports to the Session of the church. Specifically, the MORE Team reports to the Session through the Faith Formation Committee of the Session.