



Dear Beloved Community of Scituate,

As some of the members of the Clergy of the Scituate Churches, we felt it was important to speak together about the current events in our country and world surrounding the issues of racial equality and justice. While we all come from different backgrounds, traditions, and points of view, we acknowledge that racial inequality is another pandemic that our country has been dealing with for a long time. This pandemic has once again come to the forefront of our minds with the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Dion Johnson and others, and as we see more and more people speak out against racism and systemic issues that have created inequality in our country.

Our traditions teach that each is made in the image of God. As beloved children of God, we are called to offer God's all-encompassing love to the world. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "God does not show favoritism" (*Romans 2:11*). Acknowledging these teachings, we therefore see it as a moral imperative that we work together to deal with the issues of racism in our own community. We feel that we can do this work best by partnering with our town's leadership, law enforcement, and schools to help support their efforts in addressing this issue. It is *together* that we can build a better way forward for everyone. We hope that we can be a source of support and counsel when needed, and a voice of love and peace when conversations get hard. We are aware this process will take time, but we feel it is important for our local leadership, law enforcement, and schools to know they have our full support in this work.

Our faith communities are working together to raise awareness about the ongoing systemic and institutional racism in our nation. Education for our churches and the community as a whole is an important tool. We will continue to look for ways to engage the work of anti-racism in Scituate, while strengthening relationships with local partners, including those called to lead and protect us. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join with us in any of these expressions of love and unity, as we work together for equity and justice.

With Blessings to you all,

The Rev. Pamela Barz, First Parish Unitarian Universalists Church

The Rev. Deacon Phil Flaherty, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Rebekah Solar, The Harbor United Methodist Church

The Rev. Natasha Stewart, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Vern Wright, First Trinitarian Congregational Church