

January 2021

An Open Letter to Our Lancaster Community

Dear Neighbors,

We are angry, sad, and troubled. On January 6, we saw a mob ransack the Capitol and try to subvert an election. We saw white supremacy and antisemitism on full display. The mild response from police was a shocking contrast to the fierce suppression of the mostly peaceful Black Lives Matter protests last year.

We want so much to say that these rioters “are not us.” But we confess that we too benefit from the sin of white supremacy that was baked into the soul of our nation from the very beginning. Many of us are Christians from primarily white congregations. We repent of our complicity and silence.

We pledge:

- to speak truth boldly in public spaces
- to advocate for systemic change and support policies that protect the vulnerable and the marginalized in voting, education, health care, the justice system, housing, and meaningful employment
- to center the voices, experiences, and wisdom of our black and brown neighbors

We commit ourselves again to Jesus who taught us to love our enemies and seek justice for every person. On this foundation, we envision a multi-racial democracy that includes all people as equal partners.