

MRPC Statement on Racial Reconciliation

We believe that the Gospel, lived out by the people of Christ united in Him, is the ultimate answer to the problem of racism. Our desire is for Mitchell Road to be marked by a Micah 6:8 mandate, “to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.” We want to be united to love and serve all people for the flourishing of our city and beyond.

The following document reflects the four core values of Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church as we seek the Scriptures for guidance regarding racial reconciliation. Our core values remind us of our Father’s call to be reconciled to him and to others: “*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation*” (2 Cor. 5:18-21)

1. HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP

- Discipling our congregation to know that hope for racial reconciliation comes through the gospel and that the Church is uniquely equipped to bring reconciliation through Him:
 - **Creation:** All are made in God’s image (Imago Dei). Our racial diversity is part of his original design and he calls it “good.” (*Genesis 1-2*)
 - **Fall:** All have sinned. Part of the fallenness of humanity is the desire to have dominion over one other. Sin affects us all and touches everything. The sins of racism and racial superiority are no different. (*Romans 3:22-24, 1 John 1:8-9*)
 - **Redemption:** Through Jesus, God is reconciling “*to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross*” (*Colossians 1:20*)...and through Him, we are also reconciled to one another across racial and ethnic lines: “*Here there is no Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all,*” (*Colossians 3:11*)

2. LOVING COMMUNITY

- Loving and caring for others in the entire body of Christ.
 - “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciple, if you have love for one another.*” (*John 13:34-35*)
- Showing empathy and humility toward our neighbors by bearing one another’s burdens
 - “*Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.*” (*Philippians 2:4*)
- Seeking for our local church body to reflect the diversity of our community “*on earth as it is in heaven*” (*Matthew 6:10*)
 - “*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.*” (*Genesis 1:27*)
 - “*I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.*” (*Revelation 7:9*)

3. COURAGEOUS LIVING

- Being willing to uncover and identify sinful biases we didn't realize we have.
 - *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)*
- Rejecting sins of racism, racial superiority, racial prejudice, and racial bias, and courageously confronting that sin wherever it is found in our own hearts or in our corporate body, whether they be sins of commission or omission.
 - *"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. (James 2:8-9)*
 - *"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with righteous judgement" (John 7:24)*
- Having the humility to grow and change.
 - *"The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence." (Proverbs 15:31-32)*
 - *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (Philippians 2:3)*

4. RESTING IN GRACE

- Resting in the knowledge that God has reconciled us to himself and to one another, making us fellow citizens and members of the household of God.
 - *"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and he might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Ephesians 2:13-16)*
- Living in unity by the grace given to us through Christ.
 - *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:1-6)*