

First Presbyterian Church of Ocala's Statement on Racial Injustice

1. *We admit that we have been silent on racial inequality and systemic racism, and that silence makes us complicit. We must reckon with what our complicity has afforded us and what it has cost those of color, especially Black Americans.

*We admit, O God, that we will never be able to fully understand what it must be like to be Black in America. As a result, we as members of a historically white congregation sorely need your guidance if we are to take a first step towards that understanding.

2. *We believe that First Presbyterian Church can and must do more than merely speak words.

*To that end...we believe that racial injustice IS in opposition to God's will for all of humanity.

*We believe that we cannot do this ourselves, and with that belief comes the conviction that the very people who have been oppressed will be the ones whose voices we need to truly hear.

3. *We will join in solidarity with all who fight the injustices inherent in our society.

*To that end...we will create an action plan to partner with our brothers and sisters in Black churches in Ocala to fight racial injustices in our community, and to work together with them to support and encourage those affected by injustice.

*We will be silent no longer.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God." -Micah 6:8