

ANTI-RACIST PLEDGE STATEMENT

COMMITTING TO PROACTIVE ACTION

As a multifaith organization dedicated to creating healthier and more just communities, we recognize that centuries of systemic racism results in the police brutality, health disparities, inequitable distribution of resources, and U.S. justice system oppressing communities of color today. Faith in Place and Faith in Place Action Fund have renewed and reevaluated our dedication to anti-racism both within and outside of the organization. We know that remaining silent places us on the side of the oppressor, so it is necessary in this time for us to acknowledge that without racial justice, there is no movement for environmental justice.

We need anti-racism commitments and actions to be incorporated into everything organizations do so that genuine healing can occur in order to create a more just world. We invite the leadership at your House of Worship to commit to anti-racist work by pledging to take proactive action. Below, we have included a few of the ways your faith community can pledge support. We ask you to consider these and the many other ways you can work to dismantle systemic racism and sign onto this letter with your commitment.

LEARN FROM VOICES OF COLOR

1) Consider ways your governing board, leadership, or Green Team can listen to voices of color in your faith community's teaching and worship. Use the work of authors, theologians, musicians, and teachers of color to guide your worship and teaching. Work to identify and diversify the voices in your curriculum, music, and teachings.

PRIORITIZE YOUR BUDGET

2) Honestly assess your budget. What is prioritized in your spending? Is there a line item focused on antiracist work? Have you hired an outside facilitator to help you create a shared language in your community in order to name and dismantle the ways your institution advances racist ideas and policies? Do you support climate or environmental justice efforts? Ensure your budget reflects your antiracist priorities and actively moves you forward.

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ASSESS MISSION ALLIES

3) Consider how your faith community works for peace and justice. Do you support white-led organizations working in communities of color or organizations led by members of the communities they serve? Find ways to support the work of organizations led by people of color with finances, volunteering, and other resources.

ANALYZE CULTURAL NORMS

4) Assess the cultural norms displayed in your building. Is the design and decor lifting up artists of color? Does the space reflect a white cultural norm? Consider ways to amplify the art and culture of people of color in your faith community.

CONNECT FAITH WITH ACTIVISM

5) Consider how your faith community collectively supports activism efforts. Do you connect your faith to taking political and community action? Do you support organizations advocating for political, social, and environmental justice with money, volunteers, and resources? Consider ways you can put your faith into action.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

We invite you and your House of Worship to commit to anti-racist work by signing onto this pledge. Email Elena Bettis at elena@faithinplace.org with your House of Worship name, contact name, and date of commitment and we will add your name to the pledge signees and provide support along the way.

