



A Confession on Race and Reconciliation from the Shepherds at Woodmont Hills Church

We believe that God—the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit—made humanity in God's image. As such, people of all nations, races, and color reflect, represent, and belong to God. We are diverse, relational beings whom God made with the sacred responsibility to care for all creation and to fill heaven and earth with praise.

As citizens of God's kingdom, our allegiance is directed to heaven, and as members of the human race, our responsibilities reside on earth. As shepherds of a church family between heaven and earth, we believe our mission is to love God, love each other, and love the world.

Because we believe these things, we commit ourselves to more faithfully representing the kingdom of God in our world by fostering an environment of racial reconciliation. We affirm that people of color matter as a truth arising from our beliefs about God and humanity. Black lives, Brown lives, and all people of color are equally as important to God as White lives.

We also see the inequity resulting from systemic racism in our world. Violence and injustice have been the sinful tendency of humanity since man and woman left the Garden of Eden. In response, the living God has passionately pursued the redemption and reconciliation of humanity to God's self and to one another. We choose to participate in the story of our God rather than accept the story of racial inequity or settle for self-interest and separation.

As the present leaders of this church family, we confess, repent, and lament things that have been done and things left undone in matters of racial inequity. We are sorry.

As ambassadors of the living God, we approach this essential work of racial reconciliation with humility and hope. We look to Jesus, the one who emptied himself for the sake of others, and desire to be the peace that he brings. We ask the Spirit of God to expose our failings and to empower us through our weakness.

We want to see people as God sees people. We want to hear the cries that God hears. We have been both convicted and enriched by hearing the stories of others. We pledge ourselves to ongoing listening, conversation, and learning as we discern the leading of the Spirit into reconciliation within our church and community.

As we pray for unity and peace, we invite our brothers and sisters to join us in the ongoing reflection of these commitments and into continuing action toward racial reconciliation as we seek to more fully love God, love each other, and love the world.