

Whereas sometimes the Church of the Brethren has taken prophetic stands on racial justice, as when in 1782 and 1797 it held that members could not own slaves;

Whereas sometimes we have been less than prophetic, as when the church has allowed discrimination against People of Color in rituals¹ or allowed People of Color to be forced out of membership such as Mattie Cunningham Dolby;

Whereas violence against People of Color has been increasing in our neighborhoods, cities, and around the world;

Whereas the number of “Hate Groups” has grown to over 800 just in the United States, mostly against people of color (Statista 2021);

Whereas US Immigration laws have often openly discriminated on the basis of race and have worked to limit or ban refugees seeking peace from the violence from their home countries;

Whereas Jesus taught us that our neighbor is a stranger in need, Luke 10:29-37;

And whereas Paul saw each person as a part of the body, Ephesians 4:1-16;

...Therefore, how can the Church of the Brethren stand with People of Color to offer sanctuary from violence and dismantle systems of oppression and racial inequity in our congregations, neighborhoods, and throughout the nation?

Adopted by Southern Ohio / Kentucky District Board August 17, 2021 and passed on to Southern Ohio / Kentucky District Conference.

Todd Reish, District Board Chair
PJ Arndts, District Clerk

¹ Holy Kiss Ritual - Actions of Annual Conference, 1835, 1845, and 1875