



United Christian Leadership Ministry of Western New York

The Faith Community and a Call to Prayerful Action

"If America has the courage to confront the great sin and ongoing legacy of white supremacy with repentance and reparation there is hope "beyond tragedy.""

James Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*

Our nation is in the midst of a deep moral, political, and racial crisis. The latest outrage and lynching of George Floyd has sparked huge demonstrations across the country with protestors calling for police reform. The nation's pain and frustration has been fueled by the flames of 400 years of racial division which resulted in layers of embedded systemic, institutional and cultural racism. The result - inequitable opportunities for people of color and oppressive law enforcement and criminal justice systems throughout our society.

Innocent Black men and women such as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Sam Dubose, Alton Sterling, Philandro Castile and Terrence Crutcher to name just a few, in a countless list of names, have been murdered by police, while thousands more continue to suffer excessive and brutal physical force by law enforcement in the streets, in their homes and neighborhoods, and even in their churches. There is still no safe place for people of color. RACISM continues to be, our 400-year racial legacy and this continues to be **America's Original Sin!**

All people are children of God and deserve to be treated with dignity, humanity and respect and we are all called to dismantling the inequities in our society which cause harm, entrenched poverty, racism and death. Now is the time to confront, and change, the racial story of America. Now is the time to do a new thing. Now is the time for action! **Prayerful Action.** Action rooted in prayer and God's will. Action which gives us the perseverance to walk the extra mile..

- **Prayerful Action** was the Prophets calling for true repentance.
- **Prayerful Action** was Jesus cleansing the Temple.
- **Prayerful Action** was Bishop Oscar Romero demanding that the right-wing government of El Salvador stop murdering its citizens and implement land and social reforms
- **Prayerful Action** is needed to combat America's racial injustice and oppression of people of color.

We are called to **Prayerful Action.** It gives us the faith, courage and moral boldness to combat America's present crises; to speak truth to power, and to condemn the systemic, institutional and cultural racism, which pervades the soul of America.

We now call upon people of faith who believe in the dignity of human beings, to cooperate in working for racial justice, promoting transparency, accountability and change in police policies and culture; reforms in prison and the criminal justice system and overcoming racial barriers which foster inequities in the economy, employment, healthcare, education and housing and who share the values of freedom and liberation to be accountable to God and humanity by developing a more just and non-racist society and nation

Join us for an Interfaith Prayerful Action Service on June 27th (see the attached flyer).

(Sponsored by UCLM, Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition and GRCC Faith in Action Network)