

Litany of Repentance and Dedication

Adapted from the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee, Presbyterian Church, USA

As Christians, we repent of our complicity in the belief that people of European descent are superior in intelligence, skills, imagination, and perseverance. We acknowledge that this belief in white supremacy has been the foundation of, and an excuse for, atrocities against people of African descent in the United States and in the world.

We repent of our failure to recognize and take responsibility for the legacy of slavery.

We repent of the injustice, pain, humiliation, and suffering imposed on African Americans by our ancestors and ourselves through actions and inaction, including in the building of our church. We repent of our complicity in failing to act in mutual loving relationship.

We repent of closing our eyes to the degradation and injustice forced upon African Americans who were enslaved, segregated, terrorized, and imprisoned.

We repent of covering our ears to the crying of families torn apart, to the sound of human flesh being struck, while songs of freedom and heavenly grace flow from our lips.

We repent that we have failed as a church and as individuals to use our voice to abhor and end lynching, segregation, and racial profiling. We regret our generations of silence on these issues so that we could remain comfortable in our homes, churches, and communities.

We repent of shutting our heart to the experiences of fellow humans whose stories of pain, suffering, hardship, struggle, love, and joy mirror our own life journeys, yet are deprived of privilege and marred by racism. We have turned our backs and walked away pretending not to see, yet we saw; pretending not to know, yet we knew; and convincing ourselves that we are not complicit, yet we are.

As repentance means turning and going the other way, with Christ's help we seek to do so.

We begin by dedicating this plaque in honor of the enslaved people whose skills and labor were unjustly used to help build the Old Presbyterian Meeting House sanctuary, Flounder House, and Elliot House.

Going forward, we commit ourselves to walking with people of African descent toward the goal of healing and reconciliation as we seek to dismantle racism.