



BLACK  
METHODISTS  
FOR CHURCH  
RENEWAL

BMCR

*Our Time Under God Is Now!*

**EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE  
PHILADELPHIA CAUCUS**

St. Daniels UMC ~ 315 Edwards St. ~ Chester, PA 19013

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June 10, 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you all with the same heaviness, hurt, pain, frustration, anger, yet hope for the future as many of you have experienced in recent weeks in the wake of the senseless murder of George Floyd by a former Minneapolis police officer. The question of how we ‘explain’ the actions of racism, injustice, inequality, and oppression in America to our young people are no longer a consideration. We need not any longer make shallow attempts to explain or even at times justify these situations as we all witness and experience its ugly and ungodly truth. An excerpt from a sermon I preached states the below:

“The reality is that many of us have been going through life with a constant knee on our neck by the oppressor and by oppressive laws, rules, and regulations created and sustained by people who have no intentions on really trying to hear nor understand what’s happening at the community level, while many others stand by and watch . . .  
... but hear these words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during a 60 minutes interview. ‘I think we’ve got to see that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear?’ ... It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large portions of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity... What is it that America has failed to hear? what is it that those who claim to stand beside me and beside you have failed to hear? You’ve failed to hear me saying to you, I can’t get up, I can’t move, I can’t breathe. Why? Because your knee has been on my neck crushing me for what seems like all eternity.”

BMCR Philadelphia stands in solidarity with the families of all of the unarmed black brothers and sisters who have been targeted unjustly and even killed at the hands of police.

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Many of us have been out in the streets letting our voices be heard, protesting and joining in with various community prayers and marches against racism, injustice, and demanding change and reform with law enforcement agencies and their tactics and policies. Many have been partnering with various social justice advocates, ministries, and committees working towards change that is long overdue. As I spoke to various people, like me, many of you have probably heard the statement "this seems much different."

Surely we are in a season that God has ordained, where the voice of the oppressed is being heard loudly and change MUST now take place! BMCR Philadelphia stands in solidarity with all those fighting for the rights of black people and against racism, oppression, and the systemic corruption that plagues many police departments which is too often played out overwhelmingly on people of color.

We stand against racism and oppression however it's manifested and in whatever ways it is masked, understanding also that it exists within our denomination. Let us continue to have real and honest conversations around these issues and partner with various agencies to continue the work towards eradicating racism and fighting for equality within.

Our Time Under God Is Now! Let us continue upon the fight that God has charged us all to undertake in this season.

In God's Service,

Rev. Eric W. Carr Jr., BMCR Coordinator