



Executive Board:

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President
Ohio

Teresa Kaldor
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Terri Robertson
Secretary - Historian
California

Stephanie Pasch
Coordinator for Membership
Minnesota

Contact Information:

Office:
P.O. Box 9304
Rochester, MN 55903

Website:
www.faithfulteaching.org

“...that they may be
encouraged in heart
and united in love...”
Colossians 2.2 (NIV)

June 13, 2020

Dear friends,

Once again, we are pivoting. Many of us are in the midst of re-opening our church buildings, figuring out VBS, and wondering what the fall holds. Now, separated by physical distance from our Sunday School classes, Adult Forums, Bible Study and face to face communication, we plunge into conversations about George Floyd, Black Lives Matter and racism.

I have struggled with what to write. What right do I have to speak on behalf of people of color?

I am privileged; I have lived in 6 different states, traveled to Cuba, Denmark and Germany. I was blessed to be raised believing that all people are God's children, despite living in a community that, in 1986, had the largest teen KKK chapter in the nation. I have listened to the stories of my friends. I have studied. I have read. And still I am privileged.

I also have a call. You have a call. One that was given to us in our baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. (ELW)*

Now is about our siblings who are in need of justice and peace. Now is about proclaiming God's love, grace and mercy for all people. Now is the time to live among *all* of God's faithful people. We have been called as people of faith to enter into difficult conversations as we stand with our siblings in Christ.

One of our board members posted:

Some are posting on social media
Some are protesting in the streets
Some are donating silently
Some are educating themselves
Some are having tough conversations with friends and family

A revolution has many lanes – be kind to yourself and others who are traveling in the same direction, just keep your foot on the gas

Know that you continue to be in my prayers as you lead your people. May God give you the wisdom to enter into the conversation; wisdom to know when to listen; wisdom to know when to speak; wisdom and courage to know when to cry out as we live and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Peace,
Pastor Juli Lejman-Guy, President

