



VENTURES IN COMMUNITY...
Advocating for those in need

Our Mission: to unite the faith communities of Southeast Fairfax County to advocate for and serve those in need.

Our Vision: a diverse and welcoming community with essential and adequate resources that reach all segments of the population.

June 24, 2020

Statement on Racial Justice from the Ventures in Community Steering Committee

Mount Vernon, VA – Ventures in Community is anguished at the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks. We grieve the unconscionable harm inflicted by systemic racism on so many people of African descent. Ventures in Community condemns racism as a spiritual and moral disease of the mind, spirit, and social structures that has too long stained the fabric of American life, burrowed into habits of thought, and become entrenched in insidious systemic forms.

Statements alone are insufficient in themselves to bring about lasting change. The time we are in calls us to a deep encounter with the spiritual and moral values we claim to uphold. Justice is the generator and prerequisite of unity. This is the time for support, empathy, and unwavering commitment to justice in every arena.

Everyone, individually and collectively, must deepen their understanding and rise above the legacy of systemic racism and undertake true self-examination. No one will grow without experiencing discomfort with the status quo. Ventures in Community actively seeks to partner with the African American community, the County, non-profits, faith communities, and others to address our community's spiritual, social, political, and material needs. We must change institutional practices, white privileges, and personal attitudes that we take for granted. To do so we will increase collaborative efforts to make meaningful progress, working especially with African American faith communities and neighborhoods in southeast Fairfax County to address racial injustice and inequity in the Route One community.

By recognizing others' pain and seeking to heal wounds through united action, we can emerge from the night of injustice into the breathtaking sunrise of justice.

On behalf of the Ventures in Community Steering Committee,

Joe Fay, Co-Facilitator

William Collins, Co-Facilitator