

Black Lives Matter – On the Long Road Towards Healing



On Monday May 25, 2020, the African American George Floyd was killed by a white policeman in Minneapolis. It is not the first time that a black unarmed man was killed by police violence in the United States.

Rev. Betsy Miller, President of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in North America writes about this death:

To kneel on the neck of any human being until they can no longer breathe, is criminal. To kneel on the neck of any human being because of the color of his skin is racist. To stand by and watch without intervening is complicit. Justice must be served. Individuals must be held accountable for their actions. Too often, we have all stood by and watched, without intervening.

Not only in the U.S. but also in Europe people are taking to the streets the protest against racist violence and structural racism. In Amsterdam and The Hague, in London and Berlin, among other places, people have come together (despite the corona rules) to make a statement: Black lives matter.

It is not only in the United States that there is structural racism. In European countries too, people are judged and discriminated against on the basis of their skin color, ethnic origin, language, or faith. In the year 2020, members of our Church are experiencing racism.

In the vision document of our Province, which Synod adopted in 2012, we find the following statement:

People of different cultures, languages and traditions are at home in our church. This diversity characterizes our church life, enriches us, and challenges us.

This goal has not yet been achieved within our church. We are still on our way. In the autumn of 2019, we discussed once again the history of our Church with regard to the history of slavery. Let us begin with ourselves and make every effort to ensure that the Moravian Church becomes a church where people of *various cultures, languages, and traditions* really find *their home*. And let us raise our voices when, anywhere in the world, people are discriminated against because of their skin color, ethnic origin, or faith.

Sr. Betsy Miller writes:

We can learn more about the roots of racism in our own lives, in the Moravian Church, and in our society today. And we can start the long, long journey toward the healing that only comes through confession, education, and coming together toward a common goal.

We ask for the coming of the Holy Spirit, as it is promised to us for this time after Pentecost:

Come to us, Holy Spirit. Be near to us on our way. Help us to live together with all people so that we may really become sisters and brothers. Help us towards healing and peace.

*The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province
of the Moravian Church*

Bad Boll, Herrnhut, Zeist, 8th of June 2020