

Statement of Support #Black Lives Matter

The Old Chatham Quaker Meeting publicly declares our support for #Black Lives Matter, Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc., and the Black Lives Matter movement.

In alignment with the **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**, the Old Chatham Quaker Meeting lends our support to the following statements from **FCNL**:

“Black lives matter. FCNL and the larger Quaker world are proclaiming this truth in our communities, our actions, and our statements.”

*“FCNL seeks a society free of racism, as set out in our policy statement, *The World We Seek*:*

“The people of the United States continue to live with the legacy of slavery, white supremacy, institutional racism, and oppression. Many groups experience ongoing discrimination and hate based on race, religion, or ethnicity. We must continue to seek reconciliation and remediation. While individuals must examine their own unintended, unrecognized personal racism, the federal government has a special responsibility to establish policies that acknowledge our history and create genuine equality of opportunity.”

In addition, the Old Chatham Quaker Meeting supports the **Black Lives Matter mission statement** listed on their website, www.blacklivesmatter.com/about :

The mission of “Black Lives Matter... is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, we are winning immediate improvements in our lives.”

“We are expansive. We are a collective of liberators who believe in an inclusive and spacious movement. We also believe that in order to win and bring as many people with us along the way, we must move beyond the narrow nationalism that is all too prevalent in Black communities. We must ensure we are building a movement that brings all of us to the front.”

“We affirm the lives of Black queer and trans folks, disabled folks, undocumented folks, folks with records, women, and all Black lives along the gender spectrum. Our network centers those who have been marginalized within Black liberation movements.”

“We are working for a world where Black lives are no longer systematically targeted for demise.”

“We affirm our humanity, our contributions to this society, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression.”

“The call for Black lives to matter is a rallying cry for ALL Black lives striving for liberation.”

*Supplemental information:

Guidance from FCNL on how to use our statement →

“If your organization, church, or meeting has approved a minute, statement, or resource on systemic racism and/or police violence, please email it to Bobby Trice (rtrice@fcnl.org) to include it in this collection. He will follow up with you to offer support in sharing your minute or statement with your members of Congress as another way to change public policy with faith-in-action.”