

Statement on Racism and Hatred Presbytery of Carlisle

We the members of the Presbytery of Carlisle stand united and say "NO" to all forms of racism and hatred. We believe that when we stand by and allow racist statements to go unchallenged and quietly watch as hate motivated activities take place in our communities without condemning them, we are teaching the world that we will tolerate hatred as part of our world. Words, behaviors, or traditions that perpetuate racist myths or stereotypes and label any person as less than a beloved child of God are unacceptable to us as Presbyterians. Together we can create a new model, one of family, where each person is shown respect and care. We will lift up aspects of our communities that enrich and educate all cultures and persons. Because we have all felt the power of anger and bitterness in our lives, we know how important, and how difficult, it is to hear the call to turn away from its deadly control. Our hearts ache for those whose lives and hearts are ruled by violence, anger and hatred. We call them to repentance and healing - to turn their hearts back to the ways of righteousness and peace. With the Lord's help and example we will not turn away from responsibility both to speak out for justice, and to seek reconciliation among all persons.

September 1995