

SPEAKING OUT FOR COMPASSION AND AGAINST HATE

“So justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil is despoiled. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. God saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so God’s own arm brought victory” (Isaiah 59:14-16).

So then, putting away falsehood, let us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25).

Problems Addressed

- A climate of hate and racism in the United States and in other parts of the world is rising from global economic crisis.
- Civil public discussion over policy has been replaced by vitriol and blaming “the other” when all are suffering under the crisis.
- The church must speak out boldly for justice.

Actions Proposed

- For the church at all levels to enter into a new dialogue convening conversations addressing current fears and realities in homes, churches, community meetings and the public square, creating sacred space for common prayer and community discussion that address issues of power and privilege without misusing their own.
- Board and agencies to use their resources to foster this dialogue and share models and strategies for finding common ground.



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