



AUGUST 2020

DEAR CHURCH **REPORT**

In early July, a small group met to discuss the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* by Lenny Duncan.

At the end of our final meeting, we compiled a list of actions we'd like to commit to in our life with Messiah. We recognize that the work of addressing systemic injustice is messy and we still have much to learn, but we'd like to start here and invite you to join us!

ANTI-RACISM ACTION PLAN

Anti-racism training for staff and council

More intentional language and imagery

- No longer using 'light/dark' to portray whiteness as good and blackness as bad
- Using inclusive language in reference to God
- Honestly portraying Jesus and others in the Bible as people of color (Jesus was a Middle Eastern man)

Continued reading and learning

- Monthly book club on racial justice
- Contact Savannah or Jan if you want to lead a meeting

Repentance

- Including discussion about our complacency in white supremacy in our worship
- Acknowledging that we play a collective role in the systems that uphold oppression in our country

Grace and vulnerability

- We know that we will not do this work perfectly
- Challenging ourselves to do so vulnerably knowing that this is the work God asks of us and that God's love and grace goes with us