

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

First, even in your grief, do not succumb to powerlessness. As Rev. Linette George said in her sermon this past Sunday, you are leaders. People are looking to you, as Christians, for leadership. Building God's Kingdom has always been done bit by bit. You are building with God right now. **Then, try to do some of the following:**

- Become involved in local government.
- Ask questions about the kinds of training your town and county's police force has received in de-escalation, implicit bias, and anti-racism.
- Ask about funds the department has been given for military-grade equipment.
- Ask about what community policing measures they are putting in place.
- Ask them to adopt the eight policies, proven to reduce police violence, [described here](#).
- Tithe some of your time during the stay at home order to learning more about anti-racism.
- [Here is a good list of resources](#), both for kids and adults, to help us continue the holy work of dismantling racism. You could read them on your own or, if you're feeling like connecting with others at church about this, develop a long-distance study group to talk about what you're learning:

Share your money: If you have some money to share, these programs in Minneapolis are doing great work and could use our support right now:

- [Black Visions](#)
- [Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization](#)
- [Help rebuild this restaurant](#)
- [Help fund some frontline medics caring for people at the protests in Minnesota](#)

- **Bail out some protestors**
- [For Us, By Us bail fund, being organized with BLM Portland](#)
- [To share with others arrested all over the country](#), this is a verified list of bail funds.
- [Here is the message from our UCC siblings in Minnesota](#). Pray over it and share it on your social media. Our siblings in Minnesota need to see our support.
- **Here are some programs and people that could use our time, money, and talents right here in Maine:**
- [Black Girl in Maine](#) – Writings of Shay Stewart-Bouley, and colleagues, on issues related to racial justice in Maine.
- [Green Memorial AME Zion Church in Portland](#) – An historic African American Church in Portland, Maine, supporting its members and community in the midst of the pandemic.
- [Wabanaki REACH](#) – An important organization supporting Wabanaki people and culture in Maine.
- [BLM Portland](#) – a local Black Lives Matter group (they have paused this GoFundMe right now, but will open it when it seems helpful)

- **Read about Black history in Maine (both available from the Conference Office to borrow)**
- [Black Bangor](#)
- [Maine's Visible Black History; the Chronicle of its People](#)
- [Watch Trevor Noah's video](#) with an accessible explanation about racism and the social contract