



**Partnership with Citadel** – *As we begin our partnership with Citadel of Faith this week, we are publishing the Mission Statement for this Partnership, as well as the meeting procedures, and member pledge. These have been developed in collaboration between our two churches. They are printed below and will be posted on our website. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit comes to lead us and bless this initiative.*

11/4/2020

Citadel of Faith and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Gladstone, NJ

### **Christian Collaboration for Positive Change**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement and purpose for this collaboration is to create meaningful, positive change for all people. The main focus will be on creating and establishing opportunities, equity, and tangible solutions to promote justice and to eradicate systemic racism and poverty in the African-American community and in other underserved communities within our country.

This collaboration seeks to promote understanding of different perspectives and experiences related to racial and cultural differences. Lastly members will seek unity in Christ and alignment on what the problems are, and then how to address the problems from a Christian non-partisan perspective.

### **Meeting Procedures/Norms**

- Each meeting will be scheduled in advance (once per month) and will include a specific topic of reference for discussion. Members will prepare prior to each meeting in order to have a substantive discussion based on that topic.
- Each meeting will begin and end with a prayer
- Every member's opinion matters equally; we want everyone to be heard
- Only one person speaks at a time
- Listen first without reacting
- If I disagree, first be able to state back what the person just said. I will validate their feelings even if I disagree
- Comments are confined to the current issue
- Discussion should alternate between pro and con arguments
- No verbal attacks of other members
- We assume that everyone speaks from a place of good intent
- Stay focused on relevant matters

### **Member Pledge\***

I hereby pledge myself -- my person and body -- to being Christ's ambassador for Love, Justice, and Reconciliation in the times in which we live. I thereby agree to do the following:

- 1) Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
- 2) Listen without reacting. Seek to be able to understand points of view with which I disagree so as to be able to state that position back to the person holding it. In doing so seek to build a common relationship in Christ and not victory.
- 3) Walk and talk in the manner of Love, for God is Love.
- 4) Pray daily to be used by God in order that all people might be free.
- 5) Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all people might be free.
- 6) Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
- 7) Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
- 8) Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue or heart. Refrain especially from political attack on others in my involvement with this group.
- 9) Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
- 10) Seek to follow God and His Holy Scripture in responding to the present circumstances in our country; look first to Jesus Christ for the way forward.

\*Adapted from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Commitment Card that was required for any to participate in the demonstrations in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. See *Why We Can't Wait* by Martin Luther King Jr., Signet Classics Edition, p. 67-8.