



December 16, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C. CLERGY STANDING TO SAY THAT THE ACTS OF INTIMIDATION BY THE PROUD BOYS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND A DETERRENT TO THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT!

Over the past weekend racist acts were perpetrated against our city and three historical churches in Washington, D.C. On Thursday, December 17 at 10am - Asbury United Methodist Church (926 11th St NW) a coalition of Black Clergy of Washington, D.C. will attend the ceremony of the reinstalment a Black Lives Matter Sign that the hatred of racism vandalized and burned.

We stand together in solidarity to say that when you harm one of us, you have harmed all of us. However, statements of solidarity with Washington, D.C. churches that were attacked by the Proud Boys, or any other hate-filled groups is not enough. We also stand to demand answers from our Mayor, Police Chief and Attorney General how the Proud Boys mob was allowed to exercise in lawlessness in our city by displaying public drunkenness and hate crimes against our people and our property. We liken the actions of sign burning to cross burning of the past, with the intentionality of intimidation and symbolizing what is next to come. We also recognize that policing looked differently for peaceful protestors of Black Lives Matter verses The Proud Boys. This must not be tolerated by our city and demand answers and swift legal action.

We further serve notice to restaurants and hotels who welcomed this hate into their establishments and who served as a Proud Boys Headquarters. We demand that you be accountable to the city that you do business and that you stand against racism on every level.

Finally, we want to serve notice to any hate-filled organizations who think they can deter and intimidate the Black Lives Matter Movement. Just as our fore parents kept pressing for equity and justice, we will stay the course. We will keep driving ahead. We will meet your hate with love. We will meet your weakness with power. We will meet your blindness with a vision from God. In the spirit of Congressman John Lewis, we will keep getting into 'good trouble' until *Justice run down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.*

If you have any questions please contact:

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