



A Manifesto For Rebellion!

In this moment when a viral pandemic rages in the country and across the globe we are aware of a rising sense of frustration, pain and outrage. The Coronavirus has laid bare the systemic marginalization, dehumanization and destruction of Black lives in America. It has brought renewed emphasis to what we already know: disparities in health care and access to testing and competent, caring treatment are killing people of color; lack of access to sustaining income is making it impossible for people to pay their bills and feed their families; and people who do have jobs are being forced to work at workplaces that do not provide necessary benefits and protection so that people can protect themselves. These disparities are the result not of systems that have failed but because the core systems in this country are working all too well!

Minneapolis is a burning bush. Our Brown and Black youth on the ground are calling on us as God called Moses to the burning bush and said, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Minneapolis is holy ground now. This is a sign of hope. While they're not the only city going up in flames--- Louisville, Cincinnati, LA--- Minneapolis is a sight of rebellion that addresses the opportunity to finally uproot one of the original sins of America, which is anti-Blackness.

This country has shown now and in the past a disdain for Black life. Its anti-Blackness has infected every social system and is the basis for the multitude of oppressions that befall all people of color, marginalized Whites, women, the elderly, LGBTQ community, the differently-abled, religious minorities, immigrants and the poor. Social and economic systems that have their genesis in anti-Blackness cannot be reformed – they must be abolished!

Black people are living in a nightmarish America. We are overwhelmed with defending ourselves from a virulent pandemic on the one hand and contending with racist systems of police murder, incarceration, detention and deportation on the other. We are outraged that there are still so very few voices calling for justice and demanding change.

Black people are angry and we have reached a boiling point! We no longer call for reform. We no longer make a moral appeal for change. We no longer trade our silence for safety – and neither should you!

We are calling for rebellion!

In the tradition of the prophets in our Abrahamic traditions we are calling for the breaking down of strongholds and the abolition of oppressive systems that cast us into second-class status and endanger our lives. And we are asking you to join us!

God commands that all are treated justly and that all our laws and systems of government reflect this command. Further, God insists that we actively work to create and preserve systems that ensure justice, respect, and care for everyone - without exception. We are guided by these commands and no longer willing to tolerate systems, and institutions that violently resist God's insistence and the suffering of God's people.

We are calling for rebellion!

We believe now is the time to take four critical steps in the direction of rebellion for the sake of all of our lives:

- 1) We believe that the Minneapolis Police Department is responsible for the murder of George Floyd.
- 2) We believe that the Minneapolis Police Department is a white supremacist, undemocratic, rogue entity, it is unfixable and should be removed and stripped of any "public service" as they have broken an oath to serve Latino, African American, and Native American people.
- 3) We believe what we are all experiencing is a rebellion against white supremacy, a rebellion against the killing and murder of Brown and Black bodies and LGBTQ bodies. It's a rebellion of survival.
- 4) [We believe in the abolition of racist policing](#) in America that is deeply rooted in the enslavement of Black and Brown people. True public safety which is desired and deserving by all, should be in the hands of the community. In particular those who are not white supremacist, racist or have shown a disdain for Black lives.

Minnesota Demands:

1. The divestment of the Minneapolis Police Department budget by the city of Minneapolis.
2. The investment of the Minneapolis Police Department budget towards Minneapolis education, health and community-based infrastructure.
3. Immediate resignation of Mike Freeman AND the state takes over the prosecution of police officers responsible for George Floyd's murder.
4. The conviction of ALL the cops involved in the death of George Floyd.