



A Pastoral Response to Federal Intervention in D.C.

FOUNDRY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Love God. Love each other. Change the world.

*Let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- Amos 5:24*

We serve a God of liberation and hope. Through Christ, we are set free to live as people of hope, joining God's work of healing, restoring, and reconciling the world. True liberation breaks chains, dismantles systems of harm, and opens the way for abundant life.

The so-called "liberation" claimed in the federal takeover of D.C.'s police force and the deployment of the National Guard in our neighborhoods is no liberation at all. It reinforces systemic racism, deepens mistrust, and cultivates an atmosphere of fear. Over-policing has never been the path to true safety. Instead, it drives wedges between neighbors, criminalizes poverty, and further marginalizes the vulnerable. We reject this doubling down on policies that have failed generations for generations.

At Foundry United Methodist Church, we believe that the security of our communities cannot be built through force. True safety is born of justice, compassion, and the meeting of human needs. It is rooted in affordable housing, equitable opportunity, and the unshakable dignity of every person regardless of race, ethnicity, age, ability, immigration status, housing status, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation.

We reject laws, policies, and practices that punish those who sleep outside. We support policies and programs that rapidly, supportively, and permanently house neighbors in need. We call for a surge in resources that would eradicate poverty rather than the impoverished. We renew at this moment our call for deeply affordable housing to be included in any projects involving the RFK campus.

We reaffirm our call for home rule and D.C. statehood. We stand alongside all who are working for a city where safety is grounded in fairness, opportunity, and mutual care.

We pray for police and national guard members who have offered themselves in service but now find themselves caught in a widening gap of distrust, standing between communities in pain and leadership bent on compounding harm against the vulnerable.

We pray with grief and urgency for those being harmed: unhoused neighbors treated without dignity, families torn apart by force, protestors met with fear instead of listening, and whole communities targeted by policy rather than protected by law.

We pray for all for whom an increased police presence is retraumatizing—those whose memories are stirred by the sight of uniforms, who carry wounds from unjust systems, and communities that have endured surveillance, brutality, and systemic neglect, whether recent or long-endured.

May the God of mercy guide our leaders with wisdom, strengthen our communities with love, and protect the most vulnerable among us with tender care. May the God of justice equip us with courage to speak truth, persistence to confront systems of harm, and hope to keep building a city where every person can live free, safe, and whole.

Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

