



October 31 - November 2 St. Louis

MEMO

TO: Rolling the Stone Away Participants & Friends

Re: Racial Injustice in St. Louis

FROM: Ecumenical Planning Team

DATE: October 9, 2017

Rolling the Stone Away: Generations of Love & Justice is a conference co-sponsored by 14 LGBT-affirming Christian organizations. Challenging inequality and injustice has been at the heart of the work of so many participating organizations and honored guests for this conference. As a coalition of LGBTQ Christian groups, we hold dear the values of full equality and justice for all of God's human creation.

As we prepare to gather in St. Louis a number of you have asked how we will respond to the reported incidents of discriminatory policies and acts of violence against persons of color perpetuated by elected officials and government representatives in the St. Louis area. We recognize that racial injustice is deeply embedded in our U.S. society and at this time is particularly manifest in the greater St. Louis community. We are horrified by the dangers of being persons of color—or LGBTQ—in America in interactions with authority or those in power. We challenge ourselves and everyone to speak out and to act to eradicate these injustices and to model the Beloved Community where all persons are treated with equal respect and justice.

To this end we are taking the following actions:

- Be in conversation with St. Louis area advocates for justice for persons of color as well as LGBT persons and to provide the opportunity for their voices to be heard during our conference.
- Provide opportunities while we are all in St. Louis for us to act in solidarity with St. Louis area groups challenging racial injustice.
- Support Black and minority-owned businesses to purchase products and services and to provide information that will allow participants to support the entrepreneurial efforts of local Black and minority businesspersons.

- Work with hotel management and local security personnel to ensure that every *Rolling the Stone Away* participant receives safe, equal, and just treatment.

Please contact one of the following people with your questions or concerns:

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