



**Joint Statement of North Carolina's Grand Masters
June 3, 2020**

Since its founding, Freemasonry has fostered peace, understanding, and goodwill for all of humanity. Our ritual teaches us that every human being has a claim upon our kind offices. We are to **do good unto all**.

Today, our world is in turmoil and the people of North Carolina are in pain. Disease, division, fear, and racism invade our daily lives. Yet, where some seek to divide us with hate, intolerance, and violence, Freemasons of every color, belief, creed, and background labor to build bridges of love, compassion, and truth.

Be it known in solidarity and in one voice that we, the Grand Masters, Grand Officers, and Brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina together condemn intolerance, injustice, violence, and the ignorance that plagues the minds of those who would perpetrate horrendous acts of brutality and cruelty.

Together, we mourn the senseless loss of life, which has spurred the people—our brothers and sisters—to seek a voice.

Together we affirm the great principles of our Masonic fraternity—of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Brotherly Love teaches us “to regard the whole human species...as one family.” Relief affirms our commitment to assistance, encouragement and support. And, Truth reminds us that we are all the children of God and in search of His love and light—a knowledge that binds us together in immortality.

Yet, while Freemasonry is built upon these beautiful tenets, we acknowledge that the words and actions of our fraternity have not always lived up to those ideals, and for too long prejudice and racism hid the light of truth. Today, as we see our nation writhe we are reminded of our own struggle to forge a bond of friendship that broke the boundaries of race and prejudice. Now, a generation after that historic leap, when our Grand Lodges extended to each other the hand of brotherly love, we know we are ready to face the challenges ahead of us.

Together, we are a grand mosaic and beautiful to behold. We are united. We are stronger together. And, we will make this world a better place by denouncing injustice, caring for the afflicted, and comforting the orphan—for all people.

We are our Brother's Keeper!

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