



ZION UNITED CHURCH

215 Peel Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1E7
519-662-1182
www.zionnewhamburg.ca

April 25, 2021.

Regarding posters in New Hamburg promoting a "White Lives Matter" parade.

"Love your neighbour" and the reality that we are all God's children, are beliefs and actions which guide Zion Community of Faith. Providing some food for those who are poor and hungry, caring for the elders in our midst and challenging everyone to care for creation are beliefs by which we strive to live.

Zion Leadership Council affirms the importance and unique meaning of "Black Lives Matter". We confirm that disenfranchisement and systemic inequities continue to be foisted on People of Colour. We confess that white lives continue to be privileged at the expense of the lives of People of Colour.

We believe we need to increase our understanding and sensitivity to how White Privilege continues its powerful role in Canadian society. We proclaim Jesus as One who has seen systemic control and sided with the outcast and the poor. We can do no less in our time than follow the way of Jesus, "to bring good news to the poor ... release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free ..." (Luke 4:18).

We proclaim, in the Way of Jesus, that a "white lives matter" campaign, march or effort in our current context of the 21st century is contrary to the message and Way of Jesus.

As such, we invite those behind the proposed march to become more aware of the history and special meaning of "Black Lives Matter". In our own difficult discoveries, we confess our own complicity in white privilege and continue to learn how systemic racism resides in and among us, contrary to the Way of Jesus.

Zion Leadership Council,

Zion United Church, New Hamburg Ontario

cc. Zion Congregation, Zion Website, Zion FaceBook, Wilmot Post, Rural Post, New Hamburg Independent, Wilmot Township Council, Wilmot Ministerial Association.