



On Friday, November 2, 2018, the New Brunswick Theological Seminary faculty affirmed a statement emerging out of shared concern for the increasingly brazen displays of white supremacy and white nationalism in this country and around the world. The affirmation process was led by Dr. Micah McCreary, President, and Dr. Beth Tanner, Academic Dean.

This statement was initially drafted by Dr. Nathan Jérémie-Brink, Dr. Janice McLean-Farrell, Dr. Terry Ann Smith, and Dr. Andrew Wymer. It was presented to the faculty for dialogue and review in a spirit of collegiality. All residential and affiliate faculty were given the opportunity to endorse the statement. In addition to drafting this statement, the faculty continue to engage in extended dialogue on the topic of colonialism as we discern further ways to embody, practice, and be accountable to the anti-racist commitments of New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY FACULTY OF NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ON THE VIOLENCE OF WHITE SUPREMACY AND WHITE NATIONALISM

In the face of increasingly brazen white supremacy and white nationalism in our nation and around the world, we, the undersigned members of the faculty of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, lament the systemic violence done to persons simply because of their religious beliefs, class, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or race.

We renounce...

... systems of whiteness that culturally, religiously, economically, politically, and socially advantage those persons deemed white by society at the direct cost to those persons not deemed white.

...the economic, political, social, and cultural foundation of our nation rooted in the systematic enslavement and exploitation of Black people and Black communities that extends from chattel slavery to the present day in the forms of mass incarceration, voter discrimination, economic inequality, and the legal killing of unarmed Black persons.

...the historical system of colonialism whereby European powers pursued the exploitation and genocide of Native people and stole their lands, in service to white resettlement and economic gain made possible by the displacement and enslavement of both Native and African peoples.

...the past and present repercussions of colonialism and the predatory relationships the United States and other imperialistic states have maintained in the Americas and elsewhere across the globe, whereby our Latinx neighbors and others have fled from their homelands in response to waves of violence and economic dependency that have served the interest of global powers.

...the religious and racialized violence directed toward Jewish and Muslim communities of faith in the form of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate even as these faiths share with Christianity a common Abrahamic tradition.

We affirm that Black lives matter. We also affirm that the lives of all who have been and continue to be harmed in the name of whiteness matter. We affirm the value of Latinx and Native American life. We affirm the value of Jewish, Sikh, and Muslim communities of faith.

We attest to the dignity of all people regardless of their religious beliefs, class, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or race. We testify that all human beings are created in the image of God. In view of the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, we profess that the Good News liberates the least among us, those who have been pushed to the margins of society due to their religious beliefs, class, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, or race.

We believe that as Christians we are called to actively resist evil and injustice in any form. We stand in unequivocal support of those who suffer from hate crimes due to the color of their skin, their ethnicity, sexuality, or their religious affiliation.

Therefore, we support and mourn with the families of those murdered by persons who wish to perpetuate and maintain white privilege. We stand with the communities of faith devastated by terror, displaced families and persons seeking survival and peace, and all those whose lives have been torn apart by systems of whiteness.

We commit ourselves through our tasks of scholarship, teaching, and ministry and our communal practices to dismantle systems of whiteness and all other systems of oppression within our seminary, the Church, and the world.

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Michael Granzen
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New Brunswick Theological Seminary was founded more than 230 years ago – the first seminary established in North America. Our dedication to providing rigorous and accessible training for a diverse community of students has made us the institution of choice for those who demand an exceptional seminary education, a flexible academic schedule, and the sustenance of a spiritually rich community.