

Covenant Church Family,

The world that we live in is no longer “business as usual.” We live during a time when COVID-19, riots in the streets, and racial tensions have taken center stage. As a church, we must represent Christ in our world and stand firm on the things that matter to God.

People matter to God. Therefore, people need to matter to us as well. We are all one race of people made in God’s image, and we must see everyone from this perspective. It is essential to recognize that racism is a problem in our world, and racism is a sin. Racial injustices will not be overcome through social reform only. The gospel of Jesus Christ is required. Racism is a heart problem that will only change through a relationship with Jesus Christ, and by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in people’s lives.

There is no question that the African American community has experienced tremendous injustices within society by the white community. We must grieve this reality, and work to make things better. These injustices have left deep wounds, racial tensions, and social disparity. The racial tensions between the black and white communities seem to have brought greater marginalization to those of other ethnicities. As a church family, we will continue to care for everyone, including those who live marginalized lives in society. And we will continue to strive to be people who work towards breaking the racial disparity of the black and white communities, in Jesus’ name.

There are three Covenant churches in Minneapolis (Sanctuary Covenant Church, Community Covenant Church, and Destino Covenant Church) that are organizing ministry efforts. These churches are reaching people living near the scene of George Floyd’s murder, including the larger Twin Cities area affected by the riots. Several churches and organizations have partnered with Sanctuary Covenant and Community Covenant, but few partnerships have been established with Destino Covenant Church, a primarily Latino congregation.

As a church, we have been in conversation with our Conference Superintendent and the pastor of Destino Covenant Church regarding an established partnership and presence in South Minneapolis to build relationships and to help assist to those in need.

You can read a letter from Pastor Mauricio Dell, the lead pastor from Destino Covenant Church [HERE](#). This letter will help you understand the mission of their church and their heart to bring the gospel to the marginalized living in South Minneapolis. I have been in conversation with Pastor Mauricio to understand their needs and learn how we can help meet them. We have agreed to partner in ministry. Our goal will be to work together to help bring the gospel and serve those hurting from the impact of the riots and social injustices. In talking with Pastor Mauricio, I am most excited about his love for Jesus and the desire to share the gospel and make disciples.

The Bible says in John 13:35 that the world will know that we are Christians by our love for one another. Alexandria Covenant Church is serious about loving our neighbors. We made a \$5,000 contribution to the Community Crisis Fund at Destino Church to help them meet immediate needs. Leaders from both churches will be meeting together on Monday, June 22. We plan to get to know one another, walk through the hardest-hit streets of South Minneapolis, and develop a plan for an ongoing partnership.

This plan will be for maximum impact for the Kingdom of God in South Minneapolis. It will likely include a more significant financial commitment from our “Regional Mission” budget as we better understand the needs. There will also be possible short-term mission trips to South Minneapolis. Our desire is to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, rebuild their community alongside them, and provide supplies that meet their needs. Tentatively, we are looking to send teams from our church in July and August.

This partnership is an excellent opportunity to help bring hope to people in our world who live marginalized lives, and who desperately need Jesus as we all do! Alexandria Covenant Church family, I am asking you to pray and be open to how God may lead you to help. We will need resources, time, and talent to accomplish the work and ministry of the gospel through this partnership with Destino Church. Many will be committed to short-term needs, but we are looking to build a lasting relationship with Destino Church to further God’s Kingdom work on earth to God’s glory.

Pastor Trinity Opp



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