

FAQ

Addressing questions and concerns about the Black Lives Matter Sign on St. Michael's yard.

As a Christian, I believe that All Lives Matter. Why can't we put up an All Lives Matter Sign instead of a Black Lives Matter sign?

To say that Black Lives Matter is not to say that other lives do not; indeed, it is quite the reverse—it is to recognize that all lives do matter, but for centuries black lives have not mattered in the same way as white lives. This devaluing of black and brown lives continues to infect our current society. We are really stating that Black Lives Matter *too*.

I object to Black Lives Matter because it seems like we are elevating black lives over other lives.

The point is not that white, Latino and other lives do *not* matter. As Christians we are called to value the sanctity and dignity of *every* life as God does. The life of a white person is as valuable as the life of a black person. The sign is meant to point to the reality of injustice that has existed in our country for centuries and continues to exist.

I understand that it is important to work for social justice as a Christian and I want to do that. But I think that signs divide us more than signs unite us. The BLM sign is an impediment to dialogue.

Yes, it is possible that the sign is divisive and could be an impediment to dialogue. This is something the vestry discussed at length. However, we decided that in the world we currently live in, especially with the global rise of White Nationalism, it was important for us to take a stand.

In the gospels, Jesus consistently chose to justice over harmony; indeed, his actions and words often caused division and disharmony and put his life and the life of his followers in danger.

I don't like the BLM sign because it represents a political movement and I don't think that the church should be involved in politics.

This is a valid objection. As a church, we would never endorse one political party over another. And yet, we believe that BLM does not belong to any one political party, but rather a broader movement for justice.

Jesus himself did not endorse a political party. That said, he was not afraid to criticize the powers that be, whether they were religious or governing authorities.

I agree with keeping the BLM sign, but think we are called to support all people experiencing injustice.

Yes, as Christians we do want to support all people who are marginalized or experiencing injustice. This is why in the short term, we will erect another sign that recognizes other groups. In the long term however, we hope to create our own public statement of mission that reflects our values as the Body of Christ called St. Michael's.

We hope that our commitment to justice will lead our parish to continue to explore opportunities for conversation, education and direct action.

Why not just have one sign that covers it all?

As much as we support the rights of other groups, the issue of racism in our nation is especially important given our nation's history of slavery and the reality that much of the wealth and economic privilege many enjoy in our country today was created because of the work of slaves.