



THE REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH

P.O. Box 3006 • Kingston, New York 12402 • Telephone: (845) 338-6759

Rev. Kenneth L. Walsh, Minister

A STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Adopted May 24, 2011

To the Community of Kingston,

As we gather and celebrate the rededication of the Mt. Zion Cemetery, we, the Consistory and Congregation of the First Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Kingston, known as “Old Dutch Church”, acknowledge with deep regret our history of dehumanizing racism that allowed for the enslavement and subsequent segregation of our sisters and brothers of African descent. Through wrong interpretation of Scripture and theological reflection, we, with the whole Reformed Church in America, proclaim that our contribution to racism and bigotry has been sinful and contrary to God’s eternal will of grace.

With the whole denomination, as we embrace the Belhar Confession of South Africa, a new doctrinal standard and a document that expresses unity among all people, reconciliation within church and society, and God’s justice, and make as one of our goals, “a world free of racism”, we, as Kingston’s oldest congregation, commit to this goal in the community life of our city and our life as a congregation. We pray with all of our sisters and brothers of faith that we may strive for this one goal: to be the one family of God that celebrates our diversity, while serving each other and the whole world.

Rev. Kenneth L. Walsh, Dominie/Pastor

Elders

Patricia Allen, Senior Elder
Betty Williams
Robert Slater
Robert Sweeney

Deacons

Margaret Cooley, Clerk
Elizabeth Kelly
Rhoda Owings
Marie Riedener