

**Linking Systemic Racism and Poverty
Voting Rights, Immigration, Islamophobia, Xenophobia, and
the Mistreatment of Indigenous Communities**

Leader: We stand at a crucial moment in our nation's history. We have fewer voting rights today than we did 50 years ago. Twenty-three states have passed racist voter suppression laws since 2010. At least 17 states have targeted Native American and/or Alaskan Native voters. Will we be a people who protect the rights of some at the expense of others or will we be a moral people who demand justice for all?

People: **We know what is right: “to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly”* upon this earth. We will be a moral people who demand justice for all. —*Micah 6:8**

Leader: We stand at a crossroads in our nation's history. Federal spending on immigration, deportation, and border policies is more than \$17 billion while 340,000 immigrants were removed or deported in 2016. Will we separate families, build walls and detention centers, and continue to scapegoat, punish and divide or will we dismantle systems of oppression and violence?

People: **We know what is moral: to ensure for all people life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We will work to dismantle all systems of oppression and violence.**

Leader: We believe that the power of our government derives from us, the people, for the purpose of providing for the general welfare and protecting the human rights of all. We know that thirteen states with voter suppression laws refused to expand Medicaid and that 25 states have laws that preempt cities from passing minimum wage laws. Therefore, we, the people, will rise up and stand for justice and kindness and liberty for all.

People: **We will fight for justice for the 140 million poor and working poor people in our nation--the wealthiest nation ever to exist. We will shine the light on voter suppression and how racist attacks on our democracy impacts all people.**

Leader: We denounce any oppression and violence in our communities, especially in our indigenous communities where tribal lands and ancestral burial grounds are being demolished and water is being poisoned. When Native American children have the highest poverty rate of any racial group in the U.S. Over 200,000 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives lacked access to complete plumbing. We know that we must seek justice together.

People: **We believe that when we save one person's life, we save all of humanity.* Therefore, we will seek justice for the one and for the many. We will show kindness to the one and to the many. We will walk humbly with the one and with the many. (*paraphrased from The Qur'an)**

Leader: When we come to understand that all of life is connected—that my wellbeing is connected to your wellbeing, that my rights are connected to your rights—only then can we become the beloved community.

People: **We know what is right and what is moral: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with one another in the quest for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people.**