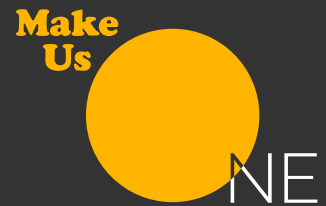


January 2022 UPDATE



UPDATE

Since 2020, our church has been on a journey to speak out more clearly about the evil of racism in our midst. We declared the need to take steps to more deeply value the beauty and richness of diversity of our body, and seek the Holy Spirit's transformation to live more into our oneness in Christ.

We have called this work *Make Us One*, based on Jesus' heart-cry in John 17 – three times our Lord prays to the Father to "make us one", not only with each other, but also with Him.

Our Lead Pastor, Brett McBride, has preached a sermon series on this topic in 2020 and 2021; we have prayed together, we have established a *Make Us One* Advisory Committee and Prayer Wall, and we have conducted focus groups and surveyed our congregation to understand their experiences with racism and diversity in our church. We have commissioned a report from Kojo Institute to help us see our blind spots, and to offer us recommendations and tools to move forward together.

The report is currently being finalized, and our Board, Executive Team, and *Make Us One* Advisory Committee will be receiving and reviewing it in the near future. Following that, we will make a summary of the report available to the congregation, along with our next steps on this journey.

If you have any questions about our *Make Us One* work, you are welcome to contact us. Please direct your questions to:

Brett McBride, Lead Pastor

Karen Hurlburt, Executive Pastor

Fanta Lewis, HR Director, and Staff Lead for *Make Us One*



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