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Our hearts, minds, and conversations at the Danielsen Institute are filled with shared horror, grief, and anger as we witness the racial violence directed at the black community and people of color. We recognize that systemic racism and racial violence are old, pervasive, and entrenched realities in our country and that the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are among the most recent, tragic manifestations of racism's lethal and suffocating consequences. As the impact of their deaths reverberates in communities throughout the U.S. and the world, we add our collective voices and actions to protest, resist, and work actively against the systems that abuse power and privilege in order to protect and benefit only a portion of our citizens. In doing this, we also want to own and recognize the ways in which our clinic, training programs, and research center are implicated in the systemic forces of white privilege. We are culpable as persons and as an institution for our history of racial inequities and insensitivity, and more importantly, responsible for shifting our own Danielsen culture to one of ever greater diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We realize that it is vital for us to utilize our power and privilege as an institution to help transform mental health care toward greater equity and justice. Our unique mission places us within the close connection between mental health and spirituality. For us, this means carrying out the sacred responsibility of honoring and attending to deep meaning and experience around diversity, culture, and social justice in all of our clinical, training, research, and administrative endeavors. It means engaging original research that does the delicate work of exploring healthy and unhealthy expressions of personal and corporate religion and spirituality and how these impact things like systemic racism, racial violence and hatred, and the experience of differences between persons. And right now, we will be carrying out that work with heavy hearts and determination. As we work together to navigate and overcome the dual scourges of systemic racism and COVID-19, we would like to offer one of our core Danielsen principles . . . "never worry alone." Within those simple words, we want to express again our sorrow and solidarity, our hope for healing and kinship, to all in our community who suffer racial oppression, and to all of us who have the opportunity and responsibility to dismantle racist systems. We must pursue justice and mercy together.