

Friendship-West Baptist Church
Social Justice Ministry
Statement on Allegations of Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia at CBS News

The allegations of intimidation, racism, sexism, and hostility from CBS executives Peter Dunn and David Friend towards African American employees show that white supremacy permeates many institutions of American society. Dunn and Friend's actions created a hostile work environment and deprived African Americans of job opportunities and promotions. Activities of this magnitude contribute to the growing wealth gap in America.

[Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III](#), pastor and social justice activist, and [Friendship-West Baptist Church](#), known worldwide for its social justice work and ministry, stand in solidarity with The National Association of Black Journalists. We stand with all CBS News African American employees who are dealing with the actions of top executives. Being subjected to racist, sexist, and homophobic attacks in a work environment elevates stress levels and rob people of their humanity. There are simply no words to adequately express the depth of our collective disappointment by the actions of Dunn and Friend and in a system that undergirded their attitudes and actions. It is clear that CBS has a significant internal problem with promoting and maintaining a safe work environment for African American employees. We echo the statement made by the National Association of Black Journalists calling for a full, independent, and transparent investigation. We call for all employees to be released from any non-disclosure agreements they had to sign while working during Dunn and Friend's tenure.

The LA Times story, which ran on January 24, 2021, revealed that racist behavior and attitudes exist at CBS's highest level. The allegations listed in the news story was also a stark reminder that we must continue to advocate for just social structures and accountability systems. While we appreciate CBS placing Dunn and Friend on administrative leave, we understand that this is a systemic problem. It is another reminder that we must continue to fight for justice. We will continue to follow the process and make ourselves available to support the employees. We remain committed to using our platform to fight for justice that is rooted in love for humanity.