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## FUmerical: Facts and Figures about Furman

Furman University

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[about racism afterward] because they could look back at Obama and say, all is well, and you need to stop complaining because he made it, and so can you.

**Would you say his election actually tapped a greater anxiety in white America about power?**

**KJ:** I think white America was perhaps intimidated or concerned about their place and future in the establishment. There are instances of some white people doubling-down and making it clear that they are the true people of power. [They] did a lot to demonize Obama and make his job incredibly difficult. Racism was certainly a part of that.

**The Black Lives Matter [BLM] movement has been criticized for rejecting the role of the**

**church, in particular what they charge as its “passive respectability politics”—peaceful protest, turning the other cheek, etc. As an activist in both arenas, what’s your view?**

**KJ:** I would push back a little on this—that the BLM movement is disassociated from the church. Some of that old establishment of the black church has rightfully been critiqued for its pandering to respectability politics. But there are a number of black clergy who have stood side by side with Black Lives Matter activists. We listen a lot more. There’s a mutual respect. The clergy can enter into certain spaces that the Black Lives Matter leaders can’t, and we understand it to be a mutual relationship we’re working toward.

**Do you agree with BLM that**

**there is a need to rebuild the black liberation movement?**

**KJ:** My elders would say that the black liberation movement never stopped, so they would not agree that it needs to be rebuilt, simply that it needs to be continued. It has to have new strategies and tactics.

**Do you have a sense of the new strategies?**

**KJ:** One of the obvious new differences is that you’ve got a whole other class—poor and working-class black people—stepping up and demanding their rights. With that comes different rhetoric.

**You provide campus ministry to Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, Morris Brown, and Spelman colleges.**

**KJ:** My call to ministry came

out of a lot of conversations I had while I was at Furman. So, I very much understand that college is an opportunity for young adults to begin to discern whether ministry might be a place for them.

**There’s been a great deal of debate at colleges lately about whether freedom of speech should also mean the freedom to possibly offend. Have you experienced that in your higher education work?**

**KJ:** I work in an all-black context, so this conversation doesn’t happen around race as much as it does about sexuality. The question becomes: Does a student have the right to tell a person who is gay that they are condemned to hell? I sit in this place of asking the question: Are there ways we can talk about this so it’s →

## FUmerical

### Facts and figures about Furman

Preparation in college for what comes after college is a significant part of the Furman experience, and the university’s culture of internships and preprofessional experiences among its students is well known for aiding in that preparation. We asked our undergraduate research and internship team to give us a sense of the numbers behind that culture.

180

Students who received funding to work collaboratively with Furman faculty in the summer of 2015



250

Greenville internship sites available to students in 2015-2016



130

Average number of students funded per year to present the results of their scholarship at national and international conferences



81

Percentage of 2014 graduates reporting that they participated in at least one research or internship experience beyond the classroom



60

Percentage of faculty who mentored at least one student in full-time research between 2014 and 2015



500

Average number of students who intern throughout the year

