



ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE
of the Northern Illinois Conference

Statement from Northern Illinois Conference Anti-Racism Task Force:
April 20, 2021

With the conviction of former police officer Derek Chauvin in the murder of George Floyd, some are saying that justice has been served. Indeed it is right that a guilty verdict was rendered where there was indisputable evidence of a crime. But as Christians who know that the word justice means more than punishment, our hearts are heavy because no conviction would have been able to bring back beloved Black child of God, George Floyd.

The most common word pairing in the Hebrew Bible is “justice and righteousness,” reminding us that justice does not stand alone; God calls us to create a world where all people are treated with dignity, respect, equality, and love. There is still much work to be done to build love for neighbor into our systems and we lift up the modern-day prophets who have long been calling us to live out justice and righteousness in concrete ways.

Yet, this is still a moment of sorrow and grief because we remember the life of George Floyd who was murdered before he had an opportunity to do all God was calling him to do in this life, just as too many people of color have been. We grieve because this kind of accountability of racist violence of a former police officer is still so rare. We grieve because we have too often witnessed our systems fail and give in to the demons of white supremacy.

May our grief give way to meaningful action, that we would create a world in which the words of the prophet Amos would be fulfilled: “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”