

Northern Illinois Conference
Anti-racism Task Force
Notable Quotes

To contact the Anti-racism Task Force, email AntiracismTF@umcnic.org

“When you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.”— author unknown

“When your people came to our land, it was not with open arms, but with Bibles and guns and disease. You took our land. You killed us with your guns and disease, then had the arrogance to call us godless savages. If there is a Heaven and it is filled with Christians, then Hell is the place for me.” – unknown Native American

“Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures.” – Cesar Chavez, Oct 31, 2014

“Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason.”
Abraham Heschel

“Slavery is founded in the selfishness of man's nature -- opposition to it is in his love of justice. These principles are an eternal antagonism; and when brought into collision so fiercely, as slavery extension brings them, shocks, and throes, and convulsions must ceaselessly follow. Repeal the Missouri Compromise -- repeal all compromises -- repeal the declaration of independence -- repeal all past history, you still cannot repeal human nature. It still will be the abundance of man's heart, that slavery extension is wrong; and out of the abundance of his heart, his mouth will continue to speak.” –President Abraham Lincoln, October 16, 1854 speech at Peoria, IL

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.” – President Nelson Mandela

“It's important for us to also understand that the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' simply refers to the notion that there's a specific vulnerability for African Americans that needs to be addressed. It's not meant to suggest that other lives don't matter. It's to suggest that other folks aren't experiencing this particular vulnerability.” – President Barak Obama, ABC Town Hall, 2020

“O be not weary of well doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.”—Rev. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church in his last known letter written before his death. Click [here](#) for additional details.