

## **Resources for Racial Justice**

\*For a list of several different Anti-Racism resources, [click here](#).

\*The Rev. Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung, CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches, invites the faith community to consider these four responses:

**Presence**– Find ways to be present where people are feeling grief and outrage. Many of us were at the protest rally last night in Minneapolis held at the site of the killing. But this presence must continue in the days ahead. Reach out to African American church leaders and members and stand with them in this moment. Stand with the Minneapolis NAACP, Urban League, and other black-led civil rights and community organizations. Stand with the courageous young activists who have relentlessly pressed the issues through the senseless police killings of Jamar Clark and Philando Castile and now George Floyd.

**Protest**– Presence must turn into protest. Speak truth to power. Do not allow this great violation to go unchecked. Call for police accountability. Call for a system-wide transformation of policing in Minnesota. Call this an act of anti-black racism even when some white narratives blame the victim.

**Prosecution**– Protest is not enough. The four police officers involved must be charged and prosecuted. Our moral voice must help ensure this happens.

**Prayers**– As people of faith we must pray for the family and friends of George Floyd. We must pray for the neighbors in the Central Neighborhood of Minneapolis where this great violation occurred. We must pray for African Americans and people of color who are feeling fear, rage, grief, and hopelessness. We must pray for racial justice and equity in our city and nation.

\*Here are a few suggestions offered by The Rev. Tyler Sit, a United Methodist pastor who recently organized an online vigil following George Floyd's murder. Pastor Sit serves New City Church in the South Minneapolis neighborhood where he was killed:

**Center marginalized voices.** The people most deeply affected by historical trauma and the trauma of current events are the people who should be able to decide what the course of healing looks like. One way to do this is to amplify the messages of organizers and activists in the black community.

**Engage in both inward and outward transformation.** It can be hard to recognize the things we believe or do that stop us from being able to fully work for justice. Having a spiritual practice of *inward* transformation balances the public, outward work of transforming oppressive systems.

**Talk with people in your circles.** “It is not a Person of Color’s job to defend ourselves, especially after a black person is slain,” said Sit. “You have relationships and power that you can leverage in ways that other folks cannot.”

\*Helpful [article](#) for those seeking to be white allies for racial justice:

**“For Our White Friends Desiring to be Allies,”** by Courtney Ariel, *Sojourners*, August, 16, 2017.

\*Another helpful [article](#):

**“75 Things White People Can Do For Racial Justice.”** You need not do them all, nor feel limited to just these 75 things.

\***Saint Paul Area Synod** “[Advocates for Racial Equity](#),” an anti-racism working group.

\***ELCA** [Racial Justice Ministries](#), a network of catalysts and bridge-builders committed to working for justice, human dignity, and the inclusion of all people in the life of the church and society.