



Fourth Episcopal District of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BISHOP JOHN FRANKLIN WHITE, PRESIDING PRELATE

CONFERENCES: CANADIAN • CHICAGO • ILLINOIS • INDIA • INDIANA • MICHIGAN

MESSAGE FROM THE FOURTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

The Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is extremely saddened by the recent and untimely death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We are asking the members of the district to be in support of Presiding Elder Stacey Smith, the pastors and our churches in Minneapolis. Our brothers and sisters are not only reeling from the loss of life of yet another black man, they are having to experience the aftermath of this horrific event with the protests and violent demonstrations that are taking place -- all against the backdrop of a catastrophic pandemic. In addition, we are asking our members of the district to be supportive and prayerful of the entire United States and the myriad inhumane events that continue to remind us that overt racism is still prevalent in this country.

We are encouraging the entire 4th District to be in prayer for peace and calm in the many cities across the nation. We pray that no more lives will be lost; there will be a cessation of violent unrest which is resulting in vandalism and aggressive disturbances. We pray that authorities will be able to protect lives and property, provide guidance while preserving the right for peaceful demonstrations. And finally, we pray that justice will prevail.

During your worship services on this Sunday morning, I am asking all 4th District Pastors to acknowledge the atrocities and tragedies that are taking place in Minneapolis and in other areas in the U.S. and pray that God will bring comfort to the bereaved families and provide a spirit of calm to our brothers and sisters who are experiencing tremendous stress and frustration.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake. Deut. 31:6

Bishop John Franklin White, Presiding Prelate
Fourth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church