



May 30, 2020

Dear Richfield UMC,

We pray this letter finds you safe and secure. This is an emotional week, friends. Each one of us brings our whole selves to the table, and that includes an array of thoughts, feelings, and questions. As you lift all of this to God, we want to say we believe God listens to it all and God's divine tears roll down with yours. No one ever laments alone. **Lord, in your mercy.**

We lament the unjust and unnecessary death of our neighbor, George Floyd. He was a friend of Jesus, and one of our siblings in Christ. This tragic incident occurred in our city, just 40 blocks from our church campus. And with sadness, we know this can happen anywhere, anytime. We lament the sin of racism that contributes to this death and divides communities. We denounce the sin of racism in all its forms. To be Christian is to live against such oppressive, dangerous, and life-altering sin. People of color deserve so much better than the brokenness that threatens them every day. **Lord, in your mercy.**

The God of All is renewing hearts and minds throughout creation. The barbarity of racism in Minnesota did not start with the killing of George Floyd. The trauma of racism did not start with the killing of George Floyd. The need for change in Minnesota did not start with the killing of George Floyd. It will not change without ordinary people committing to make change happen. May God show us the way forward as a state, as a church, and as beloved siblings in Christ. **Lord, in your mercy.**

As your clergy team, we commit to partnering with you, the ministers of the church. We commit to listening to seek understanding, asking honest questions, building meaningful relationships, offering tremendous grace, and supporting our collective and individual faith-filled journeys. We commit to this and we ask you to please commit to the same, thank you. **Lord, in your mercy.**

We are proud to be your clergy team. We are grateful for all you in times like these. You are beloved children of God who care about loving God and loving neighbor. You are beloved children of God who care about reaching new people. You are beloved children of God who want to heal a broken world. May we embrace the comfort and strength that comes from the Holy Spirit to move us ahead in this threefold mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May we find it life-fulfilling, life-bringing, and life-saving. **Lord, in your mercy.**

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor

nmelcher@richfieldumc.org

612.861.6086 Office | 612.399.6276 Mobile

Rev. Hope Hutchison
Dir. of Children & Family Ministries

hhutchison@richfieldumc.org

612.861.6086 Office | 612.626.1429 Mobile