

Statement on Minneapolis, MN from American Clergy Leadership Conference

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American Clergy Leadership Conference

"Rebuild the Family, Restore the Community and Renew the Nation and World"

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**Martin Luther
KING**

The American Clergy Leadership Conference, ACLC strives for unity in the United States of America. We cannot tolerate the treacherous murder of Mr. George Floyd by Officer Derek Chauvin, while three other policemen of the Minneapolis Police Department looked on. All of America is outraged, white, black Americans as well as people of all races and backgrounds have taken to the streets, "protesting" what happened in Minneapolis because it must be addressed and resolved.

In the 1950's and 60's such murder and brutality by police went unanswered, and then the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood up and led with Jesus' words, "Love Your Enemy." The love he brought was a redemptive love that challenged and resisted evil with non-violence. Dr. King suffered jail, injustice and finally his house was bombed and evil took his life, but evil could not take his victory. He lived according to the scripture that says, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me." Dr. King's voice continues to resonate throughout America and the world. The victory he achieved was God's victory that not only liberated the oppressed but also liberated the oppressor. Dr. King could stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and gave the *I Have a Dream* message for America where he said,

"Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: in the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred....I say to you today, my friends, though, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

ACLC believes that all men are created equal and that this must be realized in America at this time. We believe that pastors along with

God's people must take the lead in resolving the injustice toward all Americans. We are issuing a call to all pastors from all races and **backgrounds, that we might deliver God's Word at this time** and take non-violent actions. We fight not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness. We must apply the spiritual principles that will draw out the people of God who **truly want to see the Lord's** justice.

Dr. King said, "**Hate begets hate; violence begets violence; toughness begets a greater toughness. We must meet the forces of hate with the power of love... Our aim must never be to defeat or humiliate the white man, but to win his friendship and understanding.**"

We are deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Floyd, but if we do God's will and heal this nation his death will not have been in vain. We want to bring redemption to all people. **We weep for Mr. Floyd's** family and all the families who had a loved one pass away with similar incidences, and for the families of the murderers who are also suffering.

For too long, families have suffered instability in relationships across America. We pledge to lead a life of true love and to teach a life of true love, by living for the sake of others, so as to strengthen and rebuild families, restore communities, and renew the nation and the world.

ACLCL in Minneapolis and throughout Minnesota exist to help the community, heal and prayerfully develop principles for living in racial harmony. We are issuing a clarion call on peace for families of all colors in efforts to eliminate flaws in the American racial stratification system by learning to respect, care, and live for others. We advocate for the establishment of coalitions in communities throughout the nation to include clergy, community based organizations, law enforcement, **etc....for the purposes of establishing** and maintaining peace in this blessed nation.

We, the American Clergy Leadership Conference join you, who are **tired of unnecessary deaths. It's time for change that liberates us** from killings. Without necessary change our nation is doomed for another political nightmare as happened following the Watts riots on August 11-16, 1965; the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968; and the 1992 Los Angeles Riots during April and May. Difference is the rising rage within American Blacks, who refuse to be told to keep silent until change has come. George Floyd is added to the memories of misery. Fellow Americans, it is true that we cannot win by default. Our enemy has us in spiritual warfare. We, people of faith, are not to stop, until we defeat and erase racism, but not by murderous retaliation and destructive behaviors. Rather, we support the power of the American people working and living together for economic development, investment in peacekeeping, and learning to maintain true love in the course of living for the sake of others.

We shall overcome this together with unity, forgiveness and true love.



Handwritten signature of Luonne Abram Rouse in black ink.

Luonne Abram Rouse
ACLCL National Co-Chairman