



ORCM Statement on the Verdict of Derrick Chauvin

The Office for Regional Conference Ministries (ORCM) wishes to express both relief and sadness in the recent guilty verdict of Derrick Chauvin of two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter in the horrific, tragic and public death of George Floyd.

There is a sense of relief because-for now, and prior to seeing what sentence will be passed-justice was done. But there is also a sense of sadness in that the bringing of justice *for* the death of George Floyd does not bring life back *to* George Floyd. And while the Derrick Chauvin guilty verdict brings closure to a *case* it does not bring closure to a *cause*-that is, there does not seem to be any real indication that this kind of senseless tragedy-which has happened over and over and over again to people of color, but seemingly, hardly at all to anyone else-won't happen again.

As Seventh-day Adventists, we must-all of us-people in the pulpit and people in the pews-commit ourselves to two things: First-to doing everything that we can do to make the lives of our fellow human beings better on this earth. That means things such as involving-not just our churches and our institutions-but involving ourselves in things like voting and registering others to vote and holding political leaders accountable for placing obstacles in the way of others to vote.

It means things like making our churches and conference offices available as places for people who wish to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Everyone doesn't need to do the same thing. But everyone needs to do something.

And secondly, while doing things like that and doing other things that enhance justice-which all of us are called to do-we must never forget that the church and each of its members are called to share the everlasting gospel of Jesus and His soon return. For ultimately, it is only His Second Coming that will bring lasting peace and true justice.

Doing both those are not mutually exclusive; emphasizing the one does not require the de-emphasizing of the other. God calls His church corporately and each of us individually, to do both: Work for true justice and peace while sharing the good news about the Prince of Peace .

May each of us ask God to help us to be faithful to that calling today.