

A Message to the North Park Community

On behalf of the entire North Park University community, we are appalled and deeply saddened by the instances of violent racial injustice that took the lives of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Ahmaud Arbery in south Georgia — and by the enabling systemic inequality that has infected our society for centuries.

We ache and pray for those in our community who daily experience trauma and fear because they are people of color. The frustration is real and exhausting. The anger is valid.

Organized peaceful protest for a righteous cause has a long history of bringing positive change in our democracy. When protests turn violent, the righteous moment and the righteous message are hijacked, and our cities are convulsed. May today's unrest leave us now – replaced by peace in our city, a deeper recognition of inequality, and with new energy to address it in our daily lives.

As a Christian institution of higher learning, North Park educates students to respect the dignity of all God's people, to seek justice, and to apply their gifts to solving society's most difficult problems.

Last week, John S. Wenrich, president of the Evangelical Covenant Church — along with Executive Minister Paul Robinson, Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation Dominique Gilliard, the Council of Superintendents and the Mosaic Commission — issued [a compelling statement](#) condemning “the pandemic of systemic racism,” and encouraging us to stand firm in our faith. I recommend it to all in the North Park community.

Let us pray for justice and peace, and for the physical, emotional and spiritual protection of our students, faculty and staff.

In Christ,

Mary K. Surridge
President