



## **Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy Responds to the Verdict in Trial of Derek Chauvin**

*Arlington, Virginia, April 25, 2021 –*

The Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy breathed a collective sigh of relief at the guilty on all counts verdict returned by the jury in the Derek Chauvin murder trial. We affirm that this was the right decision and are prayerful that his sentence will be in line with the heinousness of the crimes committed. We are also thankful that the U.S. Justice Department has finally opened a probe into the Minneapolis Police Department through which it will examine whether its officers have a pattern or practice of violating the civil rights of residents. This has been a long time in coming.

While the verdict gives us hope, we agree with Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's assessment that the result is not justice, it is accountability. George Floyd's life was brutally and unjustly taken, no jury verdict or investigation can undo that fact. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge the great work of the prosecution team in putting forward the best case possible. Their hard work led to the right outcome.

This trial and verdict need to represent a shift toward us holding law enforcement accountable and responsible for the unlawful, excessive, and even abusive ways that they police. Far too many communities in our nation, particularly communities of color, know the impact of police brutality. We will not recount the history of policing in Black and brown communities here, but suffice it to say, it is often fraught with prejudice and hatred, instead of compassion and protection. This cannot be allowed to continue. Our Coalition is committed to transforming our society into one that is fair, equitable, and safe for all citizens.

Moreover, our Coalition is committed to the cause of justice. We are committed to representing the voices of the voiceless and making sure that those who are often overlooked are acknowledged and valued. We pray that one day soon justice will indeed roll down like waters. We will work, agitate, preach, pray, and stand on the wall until we have overcome every barrier that keeps our Nation from being unified and therefore free.

The Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy consists of African American ministerial leaders in Arlington.

###

For media Contacts please contact Delishia Davis, Lead Pastor at Calloway United Methodist Church and President of Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy

703-525-4472

[delishiadavis@vaumc.org](mailto:delishiadavis@vaumc.org)

