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Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 5:52 PM

To: Missouri River District <missouririver@greatplainsumc.org>

Subject: Resources for anti-racists:

Black lives matter.

I've spent the past few days feeling angry and heartbroken. The murders of George Floyd and James Scurlock have brought the racism that permeates the U.S. into sharp focus. And once again, in the case of James Scurlock, justice has been denied. It is infuriating. I can only imagine what African-Americans are going through right now.

I don't have any answers, but as I've written before, silence is no option. So, with much trepidation, I'd like to say a few things to my white brothers and sisters who are people of good will. First, we need to acknowledge our white privilege. Any troubles and disadvantages we have faced are not because of the color of our skin. Second, we need to do the work of learning about systemic racism. It is not the job of our friends and colleagues who are not white to educate us about this. It has never been their job, but God knows it isn't now. There are plenty of resources available, and we have put links to many of them on The Big Garden website. Once we know better, we can do better. Doing better means calling out racism whenever and wherever we see it. Finally, this is a time for us who are white to show humility and be willing and ready to listen. Being an ally means setting aside our own agendas and desires, listening to black people, and supporting their leadership. During protests over the past few days, most of the arrests have been of white people. Whether they are in jail or out on bail, they are still alive. But it is a young African-American man who was murdered. We white people need to be very careful that our efforts to be allies don't cause further grief to communities that we hope to help. That is why we need to honor, respect, and follow African-American leadership during this crisis.

Our organization was founded in the 1960s in response to the race riots taking place in Omaha. Decades later in this same city, we must pursue racial justice with our greatest urgency and effort. The lives of the kids we serve depend on it. We have to do better, and now.

The Big Garden stands in solidarity with those who are calling for justice for George Floyd, James Scurlock, and all the other Black lives who have been senselessly taken by white supremacy, bigotry, and racism. In response to the denial of justice for James Scurlock, I encourage you to contact your local elected officials and voice your outrage. Contact information for the Douglas County Attorney, Douglas County Commissioners, City of Omaha Mayor, and City Council members are included below. Keep the pressure on. Lives depend on it.

Black. Lives. Matter.



Nathan Morgan
Executive Director
The Big Garden

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Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert:
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Douglas County Commissioners:
<https://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/>

Omaha City Council:
<https://citycouncil.cityofomaha.org/>

Anti-racism Resources

