

DATE: April 21, 2021

SUBJECT LINE: Message regarding Derek Chauvin verdict

Lipscomb Community -

Yesterday was a very significant event for many in our community following the Derek Chauvin verdict announcement in the trial related to George Floyd's death. With this significant moment, we are all challenged to reflect deeply, to continue the pursuit of justice and to embrace living in a multicultural society.

As a country, an institution and individuals, we are on a long journey to achieve justice and equity. We, as the Lipscomb community, will continue our pursuit of truth, a greater understanding of how to work toward a more just future and support actions that bring about positive change. As an academic community, Lipscomb University seeks to be one that is characterized by a respect for all persons and the diversity they bring to our community.

As a reminder, several resources are available for those in our community who would like support and to engage in dialogue about these significant events. Students can access counseling services through the **Counseling Center** by calling 615.966.1781 or completing [this form](#) to request an appointment. Full-time employees who are benefit eligible may access up to five counseling sessions with a licensed counselor at no charge through our **Employee Assistance Program**. Assistance is available 24/7 and your personal information is kept completely confidential and private. To learn more about how to access this benefit, please review the attached information. For those who may desire a more informal conversation or dialogue, please feel free to contact one of these individuals:

- **Dr. Prentice Ashford**, Dean of Community Life, prentice.ashford@lipscomb.edu
- **Dr. William Turner**, Special Counsel to the President for Diversity and Inclusion, william.turner@lipscomb.edu
- **Dr. Norma Burgess**, Associate Provost for Diversity, Inclusion and Special Initiatives, norma.burgess@lipscomb.edu
- **Dr. Scott Sager**, Vice President for Church Services, at scott.sager@lipscomb.edu.

Please do not hesitate to access these resources or visit with these individuals in the coming days.

Blessings,

Dr. L. Randolph Lowry, President

Dr. W. Craig Bledsoe, Provost

Dr. William Turner, Special Counsel to the President for Diversity and Inclusion

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LQ9KrJOkSReXXX8V3OEon7QtSRjk0rsa/view?usp=sharing>