



Thirteenth Episcopal District

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STATEMENT ON MR. TYRE NICHOLS

We, the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of the West Tennessee Conference, mourn the life of Mr. Tyre Nichols whose life came to a brutal end on January 10, 2023. We further grieve the loss of a father, son, and a family member whose pain is inconsolable. We also share in the deep sorrow and anger of the members of the greater Memphis community who are changed forever through this horrific act of violence.

The value of Black lives has been the relevant question plaguing our nation over the past years as the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Laquan McDonald, Freddie Gray, Breona Taylor, Eric Taylor, Sandra Bland, Ayana Stanley Jones, George Floyd, and so many others remind our nation of the tyranny of injustice that lingers in the criminal justice system.

We are angered to learn about the troubling manner in which officers of the Memphis Police Department abused the public's trust, leading to their termination and charges of murder of Mr. Tyre Nichols. While we are grateful at the City's response, we want to be assured that steps will be taken to stop such atrocity in the future. We call on the Memphis Police Department to release all other related video footage, documents, and investigations regarding the arrest, hospitalization, and death of Mr. Tyre Nichols. We fully expect that all persons will be held accountable, regardless of color or position. We further demand a culture of accountability, transparency and integrity by the Memphis Police Department and all City officials in this matter of injustice.

Throughout history, those in positions of power and authority have frequently been guilty of abusing the trust of the populace and trying to silence the voices of those crying out for positive change for those who are discriminated against and oppressed. History also reflects that positive change will only come when we as a people of Faith collectively let our voices be heard loud and clear, for as long as necessary to bring about the justice we seek.

Therefore, today we are grieving Mr. Tyre Nichols' horrendous death, yet celebrating his honorable life. The time is now; and must be used creatively to do right and tear down the altars of violence and injustice. We, the members of the West Tennessee Annual Conference of the Thirteenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, make a solemn pledge to stand in solidarity with the citizens of Memphis and vicinity to work to bring an end to violence and injustice by all who are in positions of authority.

Rev. Dr. K. Andre Brooks Chair, Social Action Committee

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Robinson

Rev. Patsy Brown

Rev. Clay Holiday

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield ,
Presiding Bishop, Thirteenth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church