



## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear Pastor Lee,

I want to thank you and the members of the Korean Caucus for issuing this bold, prophetic and pastoral response to the deplorable acts of racism committed this week in Atlanta.

The news of this brutal attack not only broke my heart, but further accentuated within me the reality that racism knows no boundaries and remains an evil in our midst that must be acknowledged and addressed with specificity and intentionality by all who seek to affirm our shared humanity and uphold true Christian values.

Our ongoing work to create an anti-racist Annual Conference cannot be confined to one group or one region. Racism impacts all who are perceived as “other” by the dominant culture. The same acts of violence, insensitivity and bias are also felt among women and those in the LBGTQIA+ community.

White supremacy and hatred is at the heart of these actions that further marginalize and harm people who were created, blessed, and given life by our Creator God. It is a result of evil on the part of individuals who cannot see the sacred worth in all persons. This same spirit of evil causes bias toward immigrants and creates an attitude of colonialism that presumes that one race is somehow superior to another.

Please know of my unwavering support for the Asian community as you respond to this latest act of violence. I support your letter and the initiatives that you have proposed. I pledge to work with you a consistent voice of justice and peace in the midst of hatred and violence.

Stay strong, keep the faith, and know how very much you are appreciated. You have my full support as we move forward.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Bishop Bickerton



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