



An open letter to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church:

The risen Lord be with you, sisters and brothers.

In our baptismal vows, we accepted “the freedom and power God gives [us] to resist evil, injustice, and oppression,” and to be in union with those of all ages, nations, races and ethnicities. Therefore, we urge you to take seriously and not ignore that our nation’s recent election may have serious consequences for Hispanic-Latino/a communities, women, and other marginalized groups.

We call church leaders to stand with the oppressed, even when naming racism within the church may offend long-time church members or compromise congregational giving. We call pastors and laity to listen to those who are hurting, to pray for and with them, and to respond by speaking up and by taking concrete actions of solidarity and advocacy.

While many voices currently urge us to wait to see what changes may take effect in January, the cost is too great. We must act now to ensure that the threats we heard during the campaign are not carried out, as they are having devastating effects on our communities. This is not a time to remain sitting in our pews or to remain behind our pulpits. This is the time to stand with the hurting members of the Body of Christ. As Paul writes, “if one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Even if the new administration does not follow through with its campaign promises for the first 100 days, immigrant families are already planning for how to best care for their children should they be separated. The result of the recent presidential election also has the potential to hurt millions of young adults. By ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, youth brought to the United States as children would be deported, many of them returning to their countries of which they have no memory, and where they can potentially face harsh circumstances.

We call our church to show evidence of bold and concrete actions to dismantle racism, including continuation of anti-racism training but also by providing space for voices to be heard and relationships to develop. We call for our churches to become sanctuaries for those who will suffer persecution. We call our church to denounce racism and white privilege in whatever forms they present themselves.

God is with the immigrant, the alien, and the one who suffers. Our Lord says, “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

This is a time that demands proof of our Christian Discipleship for the transformation of the world, a time to stand with those whom Jesus calls the Least of These his sisters and brothers (Matthew 25:31-46).

In Christ,

Hispanic/Latino Committee
The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.