



Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



**A PASTORAL LETTER FROM
THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

“Now faith, hope, and love remain...and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 CEB

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Greetings,

May the grace of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits. Amid the change and uncertainty that have resulted from the recent U.S. elections, and the ways in which these matters will impact the whole world, we remember that we are held by the enduring power of God's love and the call to be agents of that love in the world.

We find ourselves at a critical historical juncture that future generations will scrutinize. It presses upon the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, a worldwide body, to speak and act with moral clarity, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and our commitment to justice and compassion for all.

We affirm the inherent dignity of all God's children. As our [Social Principles](#) remind us, “*God calls all members of the human family to recognize and protect the dignity and worth of all people.*” The lessons of history teach us the dangers of silence in the face of threats to human rights. Therefore, we cannot remain silent. We call upon all United Methodists to exercise their faith and to pray, speak, and act for justice and peace.

Our baptismal vows call us “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” We therefore reject rhetoric, policies, and actions that demean or discriminate against any of God's children and will be vigilant in defending the rights of the vulnerable and speaking out against oppression.

To people of all generations, especially our young, who yearn for a more just and inclusive world, your vision and passion give us hope. We commit to working alongside you to build the beloved community that reflects God's kingdom on earth. In the days ahead, we will continue this vital work uninterrupted and with renewed vigor. And we commit ourselves to prayer for our political leaders around the globe.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

President - Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church