



Statement on Asian, Asian American, And Pacific Islander Discrimination

In the wake of the recent tragedy in Atlanta and the increased violence against Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders across our city, state and country, I want to encourage everyone to receive the following statements:

- Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, president of the board of directors, and Roland Fernandes, general secretary, of our General Board of Global Ministries, which is located in Atlanta:
<https://umcmmission.org/news-statements/statement-on-march-16-shootings-in-atlanta/>
- New Federation of Asian American United Methodists:
<https://www.nfaaum.org/2021/03/16/statement-against-anti-asian-violence-mar-2021/>
(Member of the Indiana Annual Conference and North Church regular Rev. Yung Sheng Chen was a founding member of the Formosan Caucus of NFAAUM.)
- Bishop Julius Trimble, Indiana Area:
<https://www.inumc.org/bishop/bishop-trimble-responds-to-recent-aapi-hate-crimes/>

The words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. come to mind, as he stated that "To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it." North Church continues its faith path to never ignore evil irrespective of who perpetrates it or who is harmed by it.

In keeping with our mission and heritage as United Methodists, North Church reaffirms its commitment to racial justice and healing for our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander members and neighbors. We pray for comfort for victims of discrimination and violence, and we pray for our society to be transformed by the love of Christ. We will continue to seek practical ways to educate, inspire, and create racial justice and healing here and everywhere.

We are reminded of our Social Principles, which says:

"We recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons. We rejoice in the gifts that particular ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life. We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access."

(continued)

We recall our history of ministry: Rev. Kanichi Miyama, founder of the first Japanese Methodist church in the United States; Bishop Yoitsu Honda of the United Japan Methodist Church; the ministry of lay missionary Charles J. Soong in China; Chung Soo An and Pyeng Kil Woo, founders of the first Korean Methodist church in Hawaii among Korean sugar plantation workers, and many others.

We are led by the vision of Amos: “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

May God use us as instruments of justice, channels of mercy, and ambassadors of peace.

Pastor Darren Cushman Wood
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