



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dakotas-Minnesota Area

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Friends in Christ,

I invite you to join me in prayerful action as we respond to yesterday's shooting at former President Donald Trump's political rally. Let us be mindful of the physical, emotional, and spiritual trauma that occurred as we mourn lives lost and the normalizing of violence in our country.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers, embodying the love and compassion that Jesus demonstrated throughout his ministry.

Violence, in any form, is antithetical to the Christian faith. Political violence, in particular, not only tears at the fabric of our democracy but also wounds the very soul of our nation. It is in these moments of crisis that we must stand firm in our commitment to non-violence, justice, mercy, and peace.

The Wesleyan tradition, rooted in the unwavering grace of God, compels us to reject all forms of violence and hatred. We are reminded of John Wesley's call to "do no harm," a principle that must guide our actions and our responses to the world's brokenness. Let us remember that every person, regardless of their political beliefs, is a beloved child of God.

As we navigate these turbulent times, let us pray fervently for the victims of yesterday's senseless act of violence, for their families, and for all those affected by this tragedy.

But prayer alone is not enough. We must also be active witnesses to the peace and reconciliation that God desires for all of creation. This means engaging in dialogue with those who hold differing views, advocating for policies that promote the common good, and working tirelessly to build communities where every person feels safe and valued.

May we be instruments of God's peace, sowing seeds of love where there is hatred, hope where there is despair, and light where there is darkness.

Together, let us commit to building a world where justice and peace reign, reflecting the kingdom of God here on earth.

In Christ's love and peace,

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

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Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area

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