

Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop

The United Methodist Church
DENVER AREA
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE YELLOWSTONE CONFERENCE

Jayne Adams
Secretary to the Bishop

Greetings to all of the congregations in the Rocky Mountain Conference:

At the 2001 Session of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference in Ft. Collins, CO, the following legislative action was taken:

We commend the Declaration from the Western Jurisdiction to all congregations of the Rocky Mountain Conference for prayerful reflection and thoughtful dialogue, led by the appointive clergy and lay leaders during 2001-2002. A copy will be mailed to each congregation. Following the discussion, a report confirming the dialogue must be submitted to the Peace with Justice Committee.

In order to follow through on this action by the Annual Conference Session, I am requesting that the lay and clergy leadership of each local church guide a thoughtful dialogue about the "We Will Not Be Silent" Resolution.

Dialogue is an exchange of ideas and/or opinions; neither side is presumed to have all of the truth. Each congregation is different - please use whatever format works for you. I ask that you approach this task with love and respect for each member of your congregation. It is important to provide absolute fairness in this study and also to provide a "safe place" - there must be no hostility or threat of any kind hanging over any discussion.

Please ask everyone to keep in mind these words from John Wesley: "Above all, remembering that God is love, be confirmed to the same likeness. Be full of love to your neighbor; of universal love, not confined to one sect or party, not restrained to those who agree with you in opinions. Neither do we love only those that love us, but our love should soar above all these scanty bounds, embracing neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies."

To help facilitate your reflection and dialogue, the Peace with Justice committee has prepared an information packet. The materials are intended to assist you; they are tools.

Following your discussion, please complete and return the enclosed reply sheet. The Peace with Justice Committee will compile a report of the responses. Please use the response form to tell your congregation's story.

It is my prayer that you will find this reflection and dialogue a means of opening communication, building bridges and a way to reflect on God's love for us all.

Your brother In Christ,

Warner H. Brown Jr.
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