



**Love Your Neighbor Coalition**  
23 East Adams Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226

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December 15, 2020

An Open letter to The United Methodist Church:

We the undersigned organizations of The Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC) demand The United Methodist Church restore funding for racial-ethnic caucuses and related staff at the justice agencies of the General Board of Church and Society and the General Commission on Religion and Race. LYNC is profoundly concerned about the Church's pattern of marginalizing parts of the body of Christ already experiencing oppression.

While we understand that the Church is facing an unprecedented financial crisis in the current moment, due in large measure to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing controversy over the denomination's future, we nevertheless believe that the ethnic caucuses are at the heart of what The United Methodist Church is called to be at this critical moment in world history. The measure of this institution's faithfulness now lies in the choices it makes.

The Church must take a strong and unwavering stand in support of our siblings represented by these caucuses. In the face of relentless racism and discrimination, we must prioritize ministry with and among those who have far too often been marginalized by our society and – tragically – by our Church.

While budget challenges exist, we must not balance our budgets by destroying these core ministries of the UMC. So, let us say it clearly: make the cuts somewhere else!

The Love Your Neighbor Coalition is comprised of 13 advocacy groups with a variety of focuses and concerns. We bind ourselves together around the core belief that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. The five ethnic caucuses of The United Methodist Church are integral members of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, and none of us can remain silent as we face a dire threat to our ongoing ministries of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

After years of side-lining and putting ethnic needs after those of dominant cultures, the Church must set aside colonial tendencies and respond to the call for justice.

So, let us say it one more time: find a more just and moral way to address the financial problems facing our denomination. Restore funding for racial-ethnic caucuses and related staff as central components of justice ministry. We believe that the soul of the people called Methodists is on the line.

In hope,

*Rev. Lyssette Perez and Dr. Mittie T Quinn, Co-Conveners  
The Love Your Neighbor Coalition*

Affirmation • Black Methodists for Church Renewal • Fossil Free UMC • MARCHA: Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano-Americanos • Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) • National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM) • Native American International Caucus (NAIC) • Pacific Islanders Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM) • Reconciling Ministries Network • United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities • United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR) • United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus • Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM)