



**The United Methodist Church  
Ohio East Area**

8800 Cleveland Ave. NW • PO Box 2800 • North Canton, OH 44720  
Phone: (330) 499-3972 • Website: [www.eocumc.com](http://www.eocumc.com)

**Tracy S. Malone  
Resident Bishop**

**Gary George  
Assistant to the Bishop**

August 14, 2017

Dear Clergy of East Ohio,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Each week, you have a sacred task, responsibility and opportunity to courageously and prophetically speak to the evil, hatred and violence that runs rampant in our communities, nation and world, namely the repulsive acts of evil and violence that took place in Charlottesville, VA.

Is there a word from the Lord? We are a people of prayer ... so, yes, we pray!

We pray for peace, healing and restoration! But we must ask, what might God be calling the people of God to say or do at this time and in our respective locations to respond in faith and to confront injustice, bigotry, racism, hatred and evil in whatever forms they present themselves.

What difference can we make? What walls can we tear down and what bridges can we build that will bring healing and hope and create Beloved Community. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Encourage and empower the laity to partner with you, and others, in being God's agents of love, peace, reconciliation, hope and justice.

Be bold! Be courageous! Be encouraged!

You remain in my prayers,

Tracy S. Malone  
Resident Bishop