



**The United Methodist Church
Ohio East Area**

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**Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop**

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August 15, 2017

To the laity of the East Ohio Conference,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I write to you asking that you pray for, and unite with, your pastor as we work together to faithfully share the love and grace of Jesus Christ in confronting the hate and violence that is pervasive in our nation and world.

As a people called United Methodist, in our baptismal vows we make the promise to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin; and we promise to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

As I did in [my letter to your pastor](#), I encourage you to partner together in being God's agents of love, peace, reconciliation, hope and justice.

You remain in my prayers,

Tracy S. Malone
Resident Bishop