

June 2, 2020

Mr. Jim Winkler,
President/General Secretary
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

A Solidarity Message

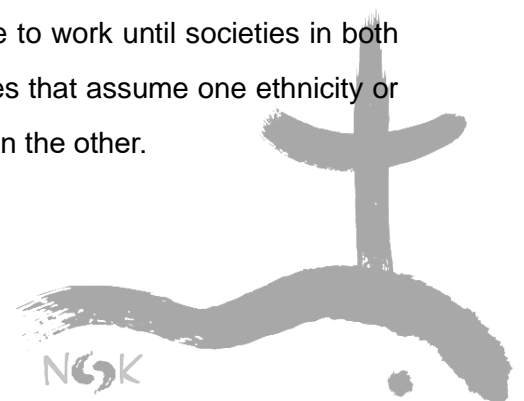
Dear President Jim Winkler,

We greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our hope and our peace.

We send you our hearts and our prayers now as the U.S.A. reels in the wake of another Black man, George Floyd, who was killed by police while being restrained. We are familiar with the frustration and the anger that a people may feel toward institutions that treat people as if their lives are dispensable. We are also asking, do our lives matter? We echo the sentiments you have expressed in your statement, in lamenting that in the US, “racism and bias coupled with policing are a lethal combination for Black people.”

We reflect on the words of Martin Luther King, Jr, “These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear?”

Therefore, we not only send prayers to you, but we will stand with you in solidarity as together we seek to reform our institutions so that they may value and protect the lives and dignity of all the people within their care. We will continue to work until societies in both the U.S.A. and Republic of Korea hear the calls to end cultures that assume one ethnicity or “race” is more civil, more intelligent, more worthy of dignity than the other.



We also pray that God's Spirit may be present with you and your community, watching over God's children keeping them from further harm, inspiring their voices to cry out for justice and the shalom that ensures the health and well-being of the entire community. Let us continue working together for that justice and that shalom so that social disorder caused by racial injustice will be healed and reconciled.

May God bless and keep you all.

Sincerely,



Rev. Lee, Hong Jung
General Secretary



Rev. Suh Ho Suhk
Chair, International Committee
National Council of Churches in Korea

