



A Letter to the People of the Texas Annual Conference

From Bishop Janice Riggle Huie

Regarding the Murders at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I write to you with a heavy heart. The nine murders at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina touch us all. We grieve and pray for the dead including their pastor, Reverend Clementa Pickney. We remember their parents, children, sisters and brothers, and their friends. We join our hearts with the people of the Emanuel congregation as they gather for worship today. We also pray for the sad, sick soul who perpetrated this unspeakable act of violence.

This tragedy must deepen our resolve to work more intentionally and purposefully to eradicate the scourge of racism which sickens the minds and souls. We commit ourselves to stand against violence and hatred against people of color and commit ourselves to work for a peaceful society which celebrates the rich diversity of all God's people.

We are an Easter people who do not dwell long in shades of darkness. In the words of the great hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing,"

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of the new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

God bless you all.

Grace and peace,

Janice Riggle Huie
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