



**Council of Bishops**  
The United Methodist Church



## **Council of Bishops Statement on Political Violence**

July 16, 2024

Following the recent assassination attempt on former President Donald J. Trump, the world is in deep sorrow and reflection. We absolutely condemn this act of violence. As people of faith, we are called to love one another and follow the example of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way to love, peace, and reconciliation. Christ calls us to be peacemakers in a world that often resorts to hate, violence, and division.

The polarization of political beliefs has created a divided world that often breeds discord. As United Methodists, we are committed to seeking non-violent ways to resolve our differences. We denounce all acts of hatred and violence against groups or individuals. We are called to resist the temptation to engage in such acts and speech and commit to the work of compassion, peace, and unity.

As Christ's followers, we are called to be healers in our churches, communities, countries, and the world. In these times of political tension and disagreement, we must remember our shared humanity, the sacred worth, and the inherent dignity of every person. It is at times like this that God is calling us to renew our commitment to non-violence and remember our baptism vows, which urge us to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. Our baptism vows compel us to accept the freedom and power that God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

We urge all United Methodists to denounce the divisive rhetoric and violence pervading our society and work towards creating paths of reconciliation, dialogue, and nonviolent solutions to our differences. May we love one another and build bridges towards peace and unity.

We pray for former President Trump, his family, and all those affected by this tragic event. We also extend our heartfelt prayers to the families of those who were injured and those who lost their lives in this senseless act of violence. May God's comforting presence be with them in their time of need.

May God grant us grace to be God's agents as healers, peacemakers, and bridge builders in a troubled and hurting world.

We look forward to the day when all people "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

Bishop Tracy S. Malone

President - Council of Bishops,

The United Methodist Church