

A letter from Bishop Carter to the pastor and church in Sanford during Trayvon Martin in 2013

Dear Rev. Charlton and the People of First United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ.

You have been in my prayers each day as the trial and the events of the last year have brought the nation's attention to Sanford.

I pray that you will be a sign of God's grace and peace in the days ahead. In addition, I pray that you will know the deep peace of Jesus Christ, who promised this to us when he left this earth to be with the Father.

It may be that the church of Jesus, in the midst of turmoil, division and the search for justice, is to remind the world of his power. I remind you of the words of Ephesians 2:

"Now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off
Have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
For he is our peace;
In his flesh he has made both groups into one
And has broken down the dividing wall, that is,
The hostility between us...
That he might create in himself one new humanity
In place of two, thus making peace,
And might reconcile both groups to God
In one body through the cross" (verses 13-16).

As United Methodists we are a connection. I assure you of our continued thoughts and prayers!

The peace of the Lord,

Ken Carter
Resident Bishop
Florida Conference
United Methodist Church