

## **Fairlington United Methodist Church Letter to the Congregation**

Dear Fairlington UMC Family,

May the grace of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits.

In these days of ambiguity, uncertainty, and change, we hold firm to one enduring truth: we are embraced by the unshakable power of God's love and called to be agents of that love in the world. The United Methodist Church Bishops recently issued a statement reminding us of our collective mission:

“We affirm the inherent dignity of all God's children. As our social principles remind us, ‘God calls all members of the human family to recognize and protect the dignity and worth of all people.’ The lessons of history teach us the dangers of silence in the face of threats to human rights. Therefore, we cannot remain silent. We call upon all United Methodists to exercise their faith and to pray, speak, and act for justice and peace.”

At Fairlington UMC, we will continue to focus on our core values and strengths. Christ's great commandment and our reconciling statement ground us in this work, proclaiming God's unconditional love and grace while affirming the dignity and worth of every person. As a faith community, we commit to creating a spiritual home where everyone is welcomed and loved as they are.

Our call to continued action focuses on advocacy, compassion, and stewardship in our four mission areas:

1. **Housing:** Supporting neighbors through furniture deliveries, security deposit assistance, houseware donations, and outreach to those unhoused.
2. **Food Security:** Providing meals to the unhoused, distributing groceries, delivering meals to the homebound, and collecting food for local pantries.
3. **Creation Care:** Stewarding our property with eco-friendly practices and advocating for environmental sustainability.
4. **Immigration and Refugee Support:** Assisting immigrants and refugees in finding dignity and belonging in our community.

We will also nurture one another within the church, creating spaces for connection, learning, and growth. Through small groups, dialogue, and acts of service, we will strengthen our commitment to justice and compassion for all.

Let us continue to speak with courage and act with the strength that comes from our faith. May we reflect Christ's love in all that we do.

With hope and gratitude,

**Your Leadership Team**

Addendum could include:

- 1) List of existing small groups and POCs
- 2) Bishop statement in full
- 3) Reconciling statement