



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bishop John Schol of the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey's Statement on Segregation in New Jersey Schools

New Jersey State House, Trenton

When I attended Olney High School in Philadelphia, a school of 5,000 students, it was an integrated high school. At the time, I believed that all high schools were integrated. I also believed that every high school student was receiving a well-rounded education that would prepare them for an ever growing diverse population. I would learn as I traveled to play football and run track with other high schools in the City of Philadelphia that all city schools were not integrated. I was shocked and I was saddened that other students were not receiving the same well-rounded education that I was.

Like in my high school years, I am not only shocked, but saddened to know that in 2018 New Jersey public schools are some of the most segregated in the nation - even more segregated than any state in the South. We can do better.

Today, I stand here not only for myself but for more than 500 United Methodist Churches in New Jersey and millions of United Methodists from around the world with the moral conviction that it is wrong that New Jersey, New Jersey for God sake, one of the most diverse states in our nation, has a system that segregates students by race. We can do better.

We as United Methodists sign on to this law suit because we believe with the court's help, we can change this injustice. We can do better for the students and citizens of NJ. We believe that the courts, the legislature, the governor, schools, organizations and communities working together can give, the 270,000 Black and Latino students who are most adversely affected by our state's laws and practices, an integrated well-rounded education which will not only benefit Black and Latino students, but like my schooling experience, will benefit White students as well. We will be better when we integrate NJ public schools.

Today, The United Methodist Church pledges to work with the leadership and citizens of NJ to create better and more diverse educational experiences for our students.

About the United Methodist Church of New Jersey

The people of the United Methodist Church have a tremendous impact throughout the state. Their congregations care for the spiritual health of their communities and serve more than



450,000 people each year throughout the state, region and world. With 500 congregations in New Jersey, worship takes place in nine different languages with a third of the clergy serving multi-cultural congregations and cross racial appointments. The five largest congregations are ethnic communities of worship.

About Bishop John Schol

Bishop John Schol served 25 years as a pastor, denominational executive and nonprofit executive before being consecrated as bishop in 2004. After serving the Baltimore Washington Conference, he was assigned Greater New Jersey (GNJ) in 2012 where he leads more than 550 congregations to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. After Superstorm Sandy, Bishop Schol and GNJ leaders founded the nonprofit organization A Future With Hope, to lead recovery efforts. Today, United Methodists and A Future With Hope have rebuilt 271 homes with the help of more than 12,000 volunteers and \$17.5 million in donations. He and his wife Beverly have three children and two grandchildren.

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