

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder Title: Methodist Church
Box: 37

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA, 22645
02AM

Western
Union Mailgram®



1-014589J245 09/02/83 TWX CWS NYK WHSA
14 NEW YORK NY

*file
Methodist*

MORTON BLACKWELL
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
191 CLD EXECUTIVE BUILDING
(202) 456-1414
WASHINGTON D.C. 20500

THIS IS A COPY OF A WIRE WE SENT TODAY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN.

WE DEPLORE THE TRAGIC POLITICAL MURDER OF FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR BENIGNO AQUINO ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1983, WITHIN MINUTES AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MURDER ARISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WHICH FURTHER CHALLENGE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MARCOS REGIME WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

SENATOR AQUINO'S DEATH ONCE AGAIN ARISES OUR AWARENESS OF THE MANY HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THOSE IN THE PHILIPPINES WHO ARE STRUGGLING FOR MORE DEMOCRATIC AND JUST SOCIETY.

AS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE, WE URGE YOU TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- 1) PRESS FOR THE FORMATION OF AN INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE AQUINO MURDER;
- 2) HALT FURTHER TRANSFERS OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER "SECURITY ASSISTANCE" TO THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT UNTIL A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF SENATOR AQUINO HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND MADE PUBLIC;
- 3) CANCEL YOUR PROPOSED VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES IN NOVEMBER.

END

SIGNED BY:

BISHOP JESSE R. DEWITT
PRESIDENT, GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BISHOP LEROY C. HODAPP
PRESIDENT, GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DR. RANDOLPH NUGENT, GENERAL SECRETARY
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
THE UNITED METHODIST

HAVILAND HOUSTON, GENERAL SECRETARY
GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COPY ALSO SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

SECRETARY GEORGE SCHULTZ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

CHAIR, SENATE FOREIGN



SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD
CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE
REP. STEPHEN SOLARZ
CHAIR, HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE
REP. CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI
CHAIR, HOUSE FOREIGN
SENATOR HOWARD BAKER, JR.
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS
SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATIONS)
REP. GUS YATRON
CHAIR, HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
REP. SIDNEY R. YATES
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS (APPROPRIATIONS)
REP. MATTHEW MCHUGH
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS
SEN. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS OF THE HOUSE
FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
REP. CLARENCE D. LONG
CHAIR, HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

14:59 EST

MGMCOMP

(L-12518)

MARTIN W. A. TROSTLE

EDITOR

THE LINK

ROOM 112

900 SOUTH ARLINGTON AVENUE

HARRISBURG, PA 17109

5
M.B. Blackwell
COUNCIL OFFICE • ROOM 112 • 900 SOUTH ARLINGTON AVENUE • HARRISBURG, PA 17109
PHONE 717:652-0460

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES

COUNCIL OFFICE • ROOM 112 • 900 SOUTH ARLINGTON AVENUE • HARRISBURG, PA 17109
PHONE 717:652-0460

COUNCIL DIRECTOR
BRUCE D. FISHER

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS
CALVIN D. CRAMER
JAY W. HOUSE, D. Min.
VICTOR K. MEREDITH
GERALD D. WAGNER

CHILDREN'S COORDINATORS
PEGGY A. FRAVEL
DONNA GRUBB
SUE WEST

*check on
our
religious
leaders
list*

Dear Sir:

Effective July 1, 1983 the Rev. Gerald D. Wagner is the new associate director on the Council on Ministries for the Central Pennsylvania Conference. Rev. Wagner is the staff person related to communications and serves as editor of The Link, the official newspaper of the Central Pa. Conference.

The previous associate director, the Rev. Martin W. A. Trostle, has been appointed by Bishop John B. Warman to serve as pastor for the First United Methodist Church, New Kingstown, Pennsylvania.

Please make the necessary correction on your mailing list and correspondence.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Gerald D. Wagner
Staff person related to communications

GW:adl

To _____

Date 4/11 Time 10:55

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Bishop Finis Anichukal

of United Methodist Church

Phone 713-528-6881

Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____

Operator _____



2/14/83

file
Methodist

Bishop ~~of the~~
Catechists

Little Rock Ark

May 3rd to 6th
Council of Bishops - Statement
Bill Clements + John Tower

85 Bishops
45 in U.S.A.

They
Humming etc.

Domestic on foreign policy

Insight
Philosophy
& Faith

Liberal inclined group

Demo
prevented ~~some~~ a
them from doing
something foolish
Easily swayed

16 million Gally
10 million on rolls

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 28, 1983

TO: RED CAVANEY

FROM: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address the Council of Bishops of the United
Methodist Church at their forthcoming meeting.

DATE: May 2-6, 1983

LOCATION: Little Rock, Arkansas

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ___ Regret ___ Surrogate ___ Message ___ Other ___
Priority ___
Routine ___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 3-8-83

JHR
TO Frederick J. Ryan, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date _____

To: Sec. W. H. Fager

From: Morton C. Blackwell

Please respond on behalf of
the President

Please prepare draft for
Elizabeth Dole's signature

Please prepare draft for
my signature

FYI



W. T. HANDY, JR.
BISHOP

Monton B. Buckner

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE MISSOURI AREA
CITY BANK BUILDING, SUITE 420
4625 LINDELL BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
(314) 367-5001

MISSOURI EAST
MISSOURI WEST

June 22, 1982

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President:

The Missouri East Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a delegated body representing a constituency of approximately 100,000 members met June 10, 1982 and adopted a proposal and respectfully asked that it be sent directly to you.

The proposal states WE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MISSOURI EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, DO CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE FREEZE OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, TESTING, PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT BY ALL NATIONS.

It would be appreciated if you would use the influence of your office to help eradicate this depressing gloom which permeates our world society.

Sincerely yours,

W. T. Handy, Jr.
W. T. Handy, Jr.

WTH: jm



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE MISSOURI AREA
CITY BANK BUILDING, SUITE 420
4625 LINDELL BOULEVARD
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63108
(314) 367-5001

W. T. HANDY, JR.
BISHOP

MISSOURI EAST
MISSOURI WEST

June 24, 1982

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. President:

The Missouri East Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a delegated body representing a constituency of approximately 100,000 members, and meeting on June 10, 1982, adopted the following resolution and respectfully asked that it be sent directly to you.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MISSOURI EAST CONFERENCE RESPECTFULLY PETITION THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, OUR REPRESENTATIVE UNITED STATES SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR GUNS OVER BUTTER SO THAT THE TOTAL SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY RESTING ON THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ALL OUR PEOPLE MAY BE MAINTAINED.

It would be appreciated if you would use the influence of your office to help eradicate this depressing gloom which permeates our world society.

Sincerely yours,


W. T. Handy, Jr.

WTH:jm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 12-14-82

TO:

Morton

FROM:

GINA BESSEY

SUBJECT:

Methodist

The attached is for your:

Information

Direct Response

Draft Letter

File

Review & Comment

Appropriate Action

Signature

Other

Comments:



Board of Church and Society
The United Methodist Church

October 27, 1982

Mrs. Dee Jepson
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Dee:

The time that has elapsed since you spoke to our Board of Directors on Friday, October 8 and the date of this letter in no way indicates my lack of appreciation for your speaking to our Board at that early Friday morning hour. I became ill later that day, missed the rest of the Board meeting and the next two weeks of work. However, I am anxious to assure you that my illness was in no way related to your presentation, but does account for my delay in writing! Hearing your thoughts about Christian action and your challenge to the church was extremely helpful as we pursued thoughtfully and prayerfully the work of our Board.

Even though we may not always be in agreement about the proper role of government in promoting the general welfare of the people, it is my strong conviction that the mainline denominations and the current administration must continue to make some specific efforts to talk with one another and to wrestle with the difficult issues facing us today. This is imperative because we both care about what happens to people, no matter our political philosophy or religious persuasion. And so, I especially thank you for meeting with this group of United Methodists who are responsible for the work of our General Board of Church and Society.

It is my intention to be in touch with you in the near future in hopes that we may have lunch or some time to get to know each other better. In the meantime, if I may be of some assistance to you, please call me at 488-5600 (switchboard) or on the direct line coming to my desk - 488-5623. I am anxious that we may find ways to be mutually encouraging and supportive and seek to bring justice for all.

Sincerely,

Haviland/cw
Haviland C. Houston
General Secretary

HCH:smw

cc: Leroy C. Hodapp

Committed to Christ — Called to Change



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

(217) 544-4604

LEROY C. HODAPP, Resident Bishop

JACK B. NORTH, Administrative Assistant to The Bishop

ILLINOIS AREA

CENTRAL ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

November 6, 1982

Dear Mrs. Jepson —

Forgive my delay in writing - but I have been home only 3 days since the meeting of our Board of Church and Society.

I wish to thank you again for taking the time to come and share with us. As you undoubtedly are aware, the so-called "main-line" churches and the present administration have many points of disagreement.

But I believe we must remain in open dialogue, which is why I appreciated your suggestion of writing via Morton Blackwell's office.

We shall do that in the future and hopefully conversation may be enhanced.

Again, thank you for sharing yourself and your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Leroy C. Hodapp

The Supreme Court

State of Washington

JAMES M. DOLLIVER
JUSTICE
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
98504



METHODIST

October 11, 1982

Mrs. Dee Jepson
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mrs. Jepson:

You may recall meeting me at the recent breakfast of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. After your speech I talked with our general secretary, Haviland Houston, and it is with her knowledge that I am writing you this letter. I very much appreciated your being at the meeting and, given what I am certain you sensed as a hostile attitude from many members of the Board, you did a very courageous act.

Let me begin by identifying myself further. I am a fourth generation Republican, my forebears having been associated with the party since before the Civil War. Although I am now a nonpartisan official, I have previously been very active in Republican affairs and was the administrative assistant to Representative Jack Westland from the Second District of Washington in the late 1950s and chief of staff to Governor Daniel Evans of Washington from 1965 to 1976. During the time with Governor Evans I had occasion to work closely with Mike Deaver on matters pertaining to the Republican Governors' Association. I have been a member of the Supreme Court since May 1976. I am a native Iowan, born and raised in Ft. Dodge. My great uncle, J. P. Dolliver, was a United States Senator from 1900 to 1910, and my father, James I. Dolliver, was a United States Representative from the Sixth Iowa District from 1945 to 1957. I mention these party connections to assure you the suggestions I will make in this letter come from a person whose interests are in the support of Republican officials.

I should also tell you I am a committed Christian and a fourth generation Methodist. My great grandfather was a Methodist circuit rider in West Virginia while my grandfather was a Methodist minister in Illinois and Iowa and was superintendent

Page Two
Mrs. Jepson

of the Black Hills Mission at the time of his death. My father was an active layman in the church and I have continued that tradition.

I am disturbed by what I believe to be an unhealthy estrangement between the Reagan Administration and the so-called main-line churches. Both you and I probably would agree that in a democratic society where the church is not established there will be a tension between church and state which is not only inevitable but probably desirable. This does not mean, however, that we should not communicate, try to understand each other's views and perhaps learn from each other as we both strive toward our understanding of the public good.

There are some fundamental problems which will not change: It is clear there is a partisan bias on the Board which is not Republican. It is also clear there are some ideological divisions which probably cannot be bridged. On the other hand United Methodists come from the Wesleyan tradition of personal salvation and personal acts of charity, traditions which you dealt with eloquently in your remarks. Furthermore, contrary to some of my friends on the Board, I believe the Administration understands that governmental systems and governmental intervention involving social needs are essential at both the federal and state level. What deeply disturbs me is the feeling developing among many Board members that the President and the Administration "don't care" about people who through no fault of their own need help. Equally disturbing is what I perceive as a feeling of the Administration that organizations such as the Board of Church and Society are at best only mouthpieces for, say, Americans for Democratic Action and, at worst, captive of the far left. Both of these beliefs are untrue and it is extremely destructive to allow them to go unchallenged. When the Administration chooses not to respond to letters from United Methodist bishops and when church groups question the good faith and integrity of the President, something is seriously wrong which needs immediate and constructive attention.

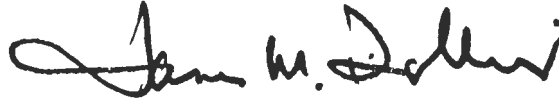
I would hope the Administration would extend a hand so that quiet, private conversations could begin which could lead to a greater understanding of what the Board perceives as its ministry and what the Administration has as its policy. My belief is we will find much with which we are in agreement without in any way compromising our integrity. At the very least we could establish the good faith of both parties so that even when disagreements arise they will involve positions and not personalities. I am confident ranking staff persons on the Board

Page 3.
Mrs. Jepson

as well as some members of the Board would be pleased to begin this dialogue with appropriate members of the White House Staff.

Again, thank you for being with us last week.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Dolliver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "M." before the last name.

James M. Dolliver

cc: Haviland Houston

The Supreme Court

State of Washington

JAMES M. DOLLIVER
JUSTICE
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
98504



October 11, 1982

Mrs. Dee Jepson
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mrs. Jepson:

You may recall meeting me at the recent breakfast of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. After your speech I talked with our general secretary, Haviland Houston, and it is with her knowledge that I am writing you this letter. I very much appreciated your being at the meeting and, given what I am certain you sensed as a hostile attitude from many members of the Board, you did a very courageous act.

Let me begin by identifying myself further. I am a fourth generation Republican, my forebears having been associated with the party since before the Civil War. Although I am now a nonpartisan official, I have previously been very active in Republican affairs and was the administrative assistant to Representative Jack Westland from the Second District of Washington in the late 1950s and chief of staff to Governor Daniel Evans of Washington from 1965 to 1976. During the time with Governor Evans I had occasion to work closely with Mike Deaver on matters pertaining to the Republican Governors' Association. I have been a member of the Supreme Court since May 1976. I am a native Iowan, born and raised in Ft. Dodge. My great uncle, J. P. Dolliver, was a United States Senator from 1900 to 1910, and my father, James I. Dolliver, was a United States Representative from the Sixth Iowa District from 1945 to 1957. I mention these party connections to assure you the suggestions I will make in this letter come from a person whose interests are in the support of Republican officials.

I should also tell you I am a committed Christian and a fourth generation Methodist. My great grandfather was a Methodist circuit rider in West Virginia while my grandfather was a Methodist minister in Illinois and Iowa and was superintendent

Page Two
Mrs. Jepson

of the Black Hills Mission at the time of his death. My father was an active layman in the church and I have continued that tradition.

I am disturbed by what I believe to be an unhealthy estrangement between the Reagan Administration and the so-called main-line churches. Both you and I probably would agree that in a democratic society where the church is not established there will be a tension between church and state which is not only inevitable but probably desirable. This does not mean, however, that we should not communicate, try to understand each other's views and perhaps learn from each other as we both strive toward our understanding of the public good.

There are some fundamental problems which will not change: It is clear there is a partisan bias on the Board which is not Republican. It is also clear there are some ideological divisions which probably cannot be bridged. On the other hand United Methodists come from the Wesleyan tradition of personal salvation and personal acts of charity, traditions which you dealt with eloquently in your remarks. Furthermore, contrary to some of my friends on the Board, I believe the Administration understands that governmental systems and governmental intervention involving social needs are essential at both the federal and state level. What deeply disturbs me is the feeling developing among many Board members that the President and the Administration "don't care" about people who through no fault of their own need help. Equally disturbing is what I perceive as a feeling of the Administration that organizations such as the Board of Church and Society are at best only mouthpieces for, say, Americans for Democratic Action and, at worst, captive of the far left. Both of these beliefs are untrue and it is extremely destructive to allow them to go unchallenged. When the Administration chooses not to respond to letters from United Methodist bishops and when church groups question the good faith and integrity of the President, something is seriously wrong which needs immediate and constructive attention.

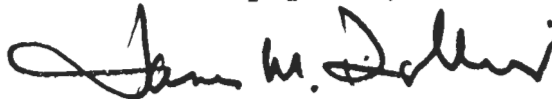
I would hope the Administration would extend a hand so that quiet, private conversations could begin which could lead to a greater understanding of what the Board perceives as its ministry and what the Administration has as its policy. My belief is we will find much with which we are in agreement without in any way compromising our integrity. At the very least we could establish the good faith of both parties so that even when disagreements arise they will involve positions and not personalities. I am confident ranking staff persons on the Board

Page 3.
Mrs. Jepson

as well as some members of the Board would be pleased to begin this dialogue with appropriate members of the White House Staff.

Again, thank you for being with us last week.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Dolliver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "M." before the last name.

James M. Dolliver

cc: Haviland Houston

THE TEXAS METHODIST

THE UNITED
METHODIST

REPORTER

Weekly newspaper serving The United Methodist Church

P. O. Box 221076
2520 West Commerce
Dallas, Texas 75222
Phone: 214-630-6495

Spurgeon M. Dunnam, III
Editor - General Manager

July 23, 1981

Elizabeth Hanford Dole
Assistant to President Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Dole:

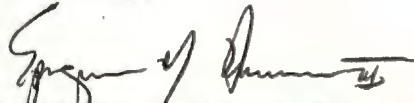
I was encouraged to learn of your meeting last week with representatives of four "mainline" Protestant organizations and one Jewish organization. Their reports regarding this meeting via church news services were most encouraging.

During the Ford and Carter Administrations, many of us in the religious community were made to feel that our views were welcomed, and that our nation's leaders desired to create a climate of cooperation between governmental and religious groups in meeting human needs and creating a better world.

When Mr. Reagan took office, the flow of information to us stopped, and the appearance was created that the President was interested only in relating to groups of the "new religious right." The report of your meeting last week was the first tangible sign I have seen to the contrary, and I am grateful for it.

Enclosed, as a matter of information, is a copy of our July 17 editorial statement commending President Reagan for his recent and historic Supreme Court nomination, and for his apparent unwillingness to be held captive by any special interest group -- religious or otherwise.

Sincerely,


Spurgeon M. Dunnam III

SMD:asr

cc: Morton C. Blackwell

enclosures

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Collections

This is not a presidential record. This marker is used as an administrative marker by the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library Staff. This marker identifies that there was an object in this folder that could not be scanned due to its size.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 21, 1981

Dear Reverend Aasen:

Edwin Meese asked that I thank you for bringing to our attention your letter to the President recommending a regular day of fasting and prayer for our nation. We will include your recommendation in our review of suggestions brought to the President's attention. We appreciate your taking the time to provide your views to the President.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Red Cavaney
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

The Reverend David L. Aasen
First United Methodist Church
811 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

cc: Ed Meese's office w/incoming
Morton Blackwell w/copy of incoming

First United Methodist Church



811 FIFTH AVENUE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

622-7278

September 29, 1981

Hon. Edwin Meese III
Counselor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Counselor

Enclosed is a copy of a special communication I have sent to President Reagan. I have a feeling that something like this could be extremely helpful during the coming months. What do you think?

Any assistance you can lend along this line will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David L. Aasen'.

David L. Aasen, Minister
First United Methodist Church

DLA:dm
Encl.

First United Methodist Church



811 FIFTH AVENUE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

622-7278

September 29, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. President

All of us in America join you during these difficult days as you seek to lead our country out of economic morass . . . and also as you wrestle with very delicate foreign affairs. I have a suggestion I would like to offer.

You probably remember that in the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament there was great concern over the welfare of the great City. After the prophet Jonah reluctantly went to Nineveh to warn the leaders, an amazing thing happened. The King and his nobles proclaimed a fast: "Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them cry mightily to God; yea, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may yet repent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we perish not?" And according to the Story God saved the city!

I think it would have an incredible effect upon all of America if you, President Reagan, were to proclaim some kind of regular day of fasting and prayer. Perhaps the first Monday of every month . . . or one Sabbath day every quarter . . . or whatever. I have a strong feeling that if the spiritual foundations of our country are refurbished and revitalized the rest will take care of itself. What do you think?

Your friend,

David L. Aasen, Minister
First United Methodist Church

DLA:dm

Council of Bishops



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Fints A. Crutchfield, Jr., President
5215 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77002

February 16, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The United Methodist Church, comprising more than ten million members in this nation is beginning the celebration of its 200th anniversary in America. As president of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church I am inviting you to bring greetings and a personal message at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Bishops convening in Little Rock, Arkansas Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 6. We would welcome your appearance at any time during the period that you could arrange to be present.

You already know that Methodist bishops have met with the President of the United States for one informal period of greeting during each administration since the presidency of George Washington. The first religious group in this country to offer greetings to the new government of President Washington was the bishops of the Methodist Church who went in person and pledged their support. That tradition has been carried across the years.

The fact that we are to begin our bicentennial celebration and that we wish to continue the tradition forms a basis for our invitation.

There is a third reason, however, and I make bold to suggest it. I think it would be very strategic and helpful for you to appear before these Methodist leaders since they, more than any other religious group, represent middle America. As I think Senator John Tower, a personal friend, will tell you, I am a steadfast Republican voter and a supporter of your administration, a

*I suggested
acceptance,
check status
w/ Fred
Ryon
& let
me know*

*It has
been staffed
out no decision
yet*

3-24

President Ronald Reagan
February 16, 1983
Page 2

position which is not always typical of leaders of our denomination. I would like for these strong leaders of our church to see you personally and feel your concern for them. It could make a significant difference.

In our Council of Bishops there are 45 effective American bishops, seven of whom are black and one Asiatic. These minority bishops have enormous influence in the minority communities. In addition, there are about 25 retired bishops who also enjoy much respect among our constituency. Our Council also embraces bishops from the remainder of the world, Africa, Asia, and Europe. About a dozen of these overseas men will be present at our Little Rock meeting. I personally feel that if these world Methodist leaders could see you and know you it would be extremely helpful in many ways.

Permit me to commend you for adhering to traditional American values as I pledge to you my continued prayerful support. I hope that you can respond favorably to our sincere invitation to appear before our Council with a message.

Faithfully,



Finis A. Crutchfield

FAC:pa

cc: Morton C. Blackwell

CS —

please get
his letter of
invitation &
draft a schedule
proposal.

MB

Council of Bishops



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield, Jr., President
5215 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77002

March 21, 1983

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

Several weeks ago I wrote to you concerning the possible appearance of President Ronald Reagan at the Council of Bishops meeting of the United Methodist Church. I am merely writing at this time to restate the invitation. I know that you cannot let us know more than ten days prior to such a possible appearance and am aware fully of the reasons for it. I have given no publicity at this time to the invitation to President Reagan and do not plan to do so. However, we are extremely hopeful that it will be possible for him to appear before our Council. The immediate reason for writing you is that I noted that the President had appointed James K. Coyne as Special Assistant and Director of the Office of Private Sector Initiatives. That office notified us of the appointment of Mr. Coyne. I wrote him a letter of congratulations and told him also of our invitation to the President. I hope this was not out of line for me to tell him so.

I appreciated the telephone conversation with you and am very grateful for your kindness. We hope to hear from you at an appropriate time in the future.

Sincerely,


Finis A. Crutchfield

FAC:pa

Council of Bishops



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield, Jr., President
5215 SOUTH MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77002

March 21, 1983

Mr. James K. Coyne
Special Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Private Sector Initiatives
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Coyne:

Congratulations to you on being appointed by our President to be his Special Assistant in the Private Sector area. Enclosed you will find a photocopy of a letter sent to both the President and Mr. Morton C. Blackwell, his Special Assistant for Public Liaison. The letter speaks for itself.

As President of the Council of Bishops of the ten million member United Methodist Church, I am extremely hopeful that President Reagan will find it possible to be present at our Little Rock meeting. I hope I am not seeming brash and bold but it is being noted widely across the country that Mr. Reagan is only speaking to conservative evangelical groups. We want very much for him to have a good appearance before one of the predominantly middle class mainline American churches, of which the Methodist Church is by far the strongest.

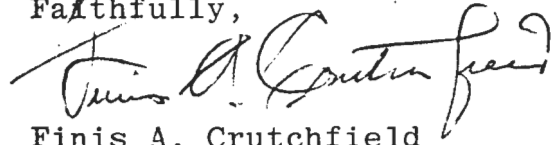
Anything you can do to help secure the attendance of President Reagan for just a brief appearance (longer if he should choose) at our Little Rock Council would be extremely helpful.

I am deeply concerned that this present administration with its values and commitments to that which represents middle America will have a fair hearing with our constituency and I am hopeful that such an appearance would have very beneficial results. Please forgive my seeming forwardness in writing to

Mr. James K. Coyne
March 21, 1983
Page 2

you, but I did want to share with you my concern and my deep interest. I am sending a copy of my letter to you to Mr. Blackwell.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Finis A. Crutchfield". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Finis A. Crutchfield

FAC:pa

TO: *Mrs. Blackwell*

FROM: Joan P. Moreci
Room 128, Ext. 7140

JUL 29 1983

APPROPRIATE ACTION

INFORMATION/FILE

DIRECT REPLY

PREPARE REPLY/FRW

HIGHLIGHT/FRW

CIRCULATE

COMMENTS:

50
37
UNITED METHODIST BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES
475 RIVERSIDE DR
NEW YORK NY 10115 26AM
Chn: 7-26

Western Union Mailgram



4-027711S207 07/26/83 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
2128703715 MGM TDMT NEW YORK NY 80 07-26 0103P EST

Joan Kneel

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20515

file Methodist

STRONGLY PROTEST GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY IN CENTRAL AMERICA AS EVIDENCED IN
MILITARY EXERCISES IN AREA, REQUEST FOR INCREASED AID FOR COVERT
ACTIVITIES AGAINST NICARAGUA NEW MILITARY BASE IN HONDURAS CONTINUED
MILITARY AID TO EL SALVADOR OVER AGAINST NICARAGUAN PLEA FOR PEACE
AND UNITED STATES TRADITIONAL RESPECT FOR SELF DETERMINATION.

SIGNED,

BISHOP ROY C. NICHOLS, PRESIDENT
BISHOP W. RALPH WARD JR, DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY WORLD DIVISION
GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

13:06 EST

MGMCOMP