

Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz  
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Wisconsin Conference UCC  
Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert  
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**Der Bischof**

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Berlin, den 11. Juni 2020

Dear Rev. Rigert, dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the name of Jesus Christ I send greetings and best wishes from the Evangelical Church of Berlin, Brandenburg and Silesian Upper-Lusatia (EKBO) to Wisconsin Conference!

While also in some German capitals people stand up against racism we again appreciate UCC's engagement with the campaign "black lives matter" very much: we fully agree to UCC's statement that "black lives matter in the kingdom of God"!

As far as we can see there is still a long way of struggle against oppression and racially motivated injustice ahead. So we want to confirm that we stand on UCC's side in solidarity and walk together. The Evangelical Church of Berlin, Brandenburg and Silesian Upper-Lusatia (EKBO) condemns all racist actions and supports peaceful protests calling for justice in face of the murder of George Floyd as well as systemic racism against so many men, women and children. The COVID 19 pandemic magnifies these disparities. We are worried about the fact that coloured people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

As Christians, Jesus tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves. And the apostle Paulus wrote "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." God loves his children of every colour. We shall not forget that our first duty as Christians is to care for those who are oppressed and suffering whether in Berlin or in Washington.

May you stay courageous and hopeful and lead your sisters and brothers in the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Yours ever



Dr. Christian Stäblein, Bishop