



# United Church of Christ **MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK™**

January 7, 2021

The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and its board members are intentional in our efforts to make this a just world for all. Our mission as a diverse group is to recognize the work that has yet to be done regarding people of color and social justice, equality, and mental health. As such, we have found that there are times when our siblings of color may or may not choose to share their laments given the injustice they face daily. It is therefore why our vice-chair, Jon Gilbert Martinez writes,

*"The continued trauma on our bodies as people of color is continued trauma on the body of Christ."*

The attack on the People's House at our nation's capital yesterday has so many implications for an array of reasons for each one of us. For some, it meant a violation of our country's democratic structure. For others, it was a reminder that this country still has so much work to do to recognize and address systemic racism. And yet, for many of us, people of color, it is a harsh reminder that there are two sets of rules in this country-- one set for white Americans and one set for people of color. Through the latter, young generations were hit with losing hope, losing hope that they, too, are an equal part of this country. It is not to say that they and other generations of people of color have not been reminded before. The distinction lies in the fact that protestors were met with the armed military to avoid chaos when a Black Lives Matter protest occurred. Yet, our country's leaders knew many would assemble on January 6th and did not meet them with the same type of force and aggression they used on people of color a few months ago. We mourn for the loss of life from yesterday's chaotic riot and are reminded that had the group not been white, the loss of life would have been much, much more pronounced.

Let us come together with prayer, but the work is long from over and should not be considered a job that people of color must do. May our prayers be accompanied with action through Christ our Lord. We know that there can be no justice—including mental health justice—without addressing the systemic sin of racism that infects our country. Know that the Mental Health Network stands with you as we do the necessary work of creating a Just World for All.

*Blessings.*

Rev. Amy Petré Hill, JD, *Chair*  
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