

Open Letter to Senator Loeffler from Clergy Members and Laity of Predominantly White Congregations

Dear Senator Loeffler,

It has been hard to focus on the Christmas season when our Black sisters and brothers in Christ are being attacked.

Senator Loeffler, when an open letter from over 100 Black Pastors and other interfaith leaders was made public recently, criticizing you for grossly misrepresenting Rev. Raphael Warnock by taking statements he has made from the pulpit out of context to sow fear and hatred, we took notice. The letter said that the slurs from you and your campaign amounted to an attack on the Black Church itself, which dares to speak truthfully of wrongs that exist in our culture, asks for change, and proclaims hope for a better future. We stand in agreement with the message of this letter and believe it needs to be shared with everyone. We will not remain silently complicit with the racism and religious intolerance inherent in these attacks. We share their outrage.

As clergy members and laity of predominantly White congregations—from Alto to Valdosta, as well as the Atlanta area—we have been striving to understand how just being White affords us benefits of good will from our culture to which persons of color do not have access. When we see racism as only a personal sin, instead of an attack on civility and human decency, we will continue to inadvertently commit grossly racist actions. These must be recognized for what they are and stopped.

That letter called on you, Sen. Loeffler, to cease your attacks on Rev. Warnock's "theological and faith traditions which visualize a just and ardent world where love, fairness and equal justice under the law...for people of all races is not only accepted as an authentic prophetic message in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, but [is] also a central message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Let's not dishonor Jesus' message of peace and justice for all by crucifying other Christians. We cannot build bridges in our state if you continue to slander and unjustly vilify your opponent. Instead, please join us in working for fairness and justice for all Georgians.

Respectfully,

Rev. Joyce B. Myers-Brown
 Rev. Dr. R. Woods Kent
 Dr. Cathryn Lee Culpepper — Big Canoe, GA
 Rev. Barbara Leininger Dickason
 Rev. Dave Spence
 Dr. Makesha Spence
 Patricia H. Blake
 Evelyn L. Brewer
 Mary White
 Robert Dickason
 Mary Lynn Merkle
 Dr. Dale G. Merkle
 Margaret P. Stansbery
 Kim Smith
 Mary Ellen Myers — Alto, GA
 Jacquelin Graves
 Warren Hadlock—Clarkston, GA
 Rev. Linda L. Smith
 Barbara Steinhaus
 Rev. Cameron A. Pennybacker — Macon, GA
 Robert M. Fredrick
 Kathy H. Lipp
 Prof. Jon P. Gunnemann, Ph.D.
 Rev. Helen Pearson Smith
 Robert D. Brewer, MD, MSPH
 Rev. Truman A. Moore
 The Hon. Sally R. Harrell
 John Hoover
 Cindy Hoover
 Rev. RobinLee Fitch
 Patricia C. Faulk
 Peggy N. Brodnax
 Denise Chiavetta
 Mrs. Margie Tullos—Valdosta, GA
 Laura Winebarger
 Rev. Maureen Jenci Shelton

Geneva Benoit
 Helen Fredrick
 Alisha A. Waller, Ph.D.
 Gracie Theobald
 The Rev. Louis F. Kavar, Ph.D.
 Gatra R. Mallard
 Lorraine Fontana
 Lane W. Waas, Ph.D.
 Prof. Erin K. Lipp, Ph.D.
 Karen Holt, RN, BA
 CharlaLee Sedgwick, Ph. D. — Athens, GA
 Rev. Sharon H. Ginn
 Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Ginn
 Carol Erwin
 Mary Ann Downey
 Marion Crabb
 James Crabb
 Rev. Kimble Sorrells
 Rev. Sandra A. Mullins
 Dr. Judith Greenberg
 Sidney West
 Tom Ferguson
 Cyndia Hunnicutt
 Carol A. Sandiford
 Bernice Bass
 Peggy Casey
 Ann Mauney
 Rev. Bill Moore
 Ann Bacon Hobbs
 Martha W. Gale
 Warren L. Culpepper — Big Canoe, GA
 Rev. Joanne VerBerg
 Forrest Hobbs
 Richard and Catherine Haining
 Timothy V. Hanofee, Esq.
 Kathleen Hanofee

Mary Alice Stephenson
 Ronald M. Stephenson, MDiv.
 Cindy Darden, Ph.D.
 Gretchen F. Turner, Ed.S.
 William B. Beeson, Sr.
 Rev. Chris Callahan
 Alice H. Ball — Sandy Springs, GA
 Dr. Nell Rodgers
 Walter William (Bill) Walthall
 N.L. Roark
 Ellen Logan
 Jay Harrell
 Dr. William W. Holland
 Lynn Maxwell
 Rev. Dr. Janice Johnson Hume
 Lois C. Hill
 Anne F. Hughes
 Rev. Alan Jenkins
 Linda Fink
 Mrs. Eleanor Buckholdt
 Ofelia Sierra
 Carolyn Kozuch DeFrancisco
 Ed Krebs
 Sylvia Krebs
 Alison Mawle, Ph.D
 Peggy Hendrix
 Annalia Polemitis
 Laura Hudlow
 Rex Vaughan
 George Van Waters Burton, LCSW, L.Th.
 Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish
 Rev. Joy Fisher
 Rev. Dr. James L. Brewer-Calvert
 Charlene Vogt, RN, MN, MPH
 Rev. Marsha Mitchiner