

I wish to amend the motion to convene the 2018 Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska Conference Center to include the following: that the Holston Conference request that the administration and board of directors of Lake Junaluska issue a written apology for the segregation and racist policies of the past to all who have suffered racial discrimination while attending events at Lake Junaluska. (Junaluska's policies of racial segregation include such things as no swimming, segregated housing, separate cafeteria, etc.)

Lake Junaluska has this as it's stated mission: "The mission of Lake Junaluska is to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. This hospitality is provided to ALL persons, without discrimination." However, this same Christian hospitality was not extended to black people who came to events in past years. Holston Conference must request an apology for these past wounds and hurtful practices. In order to heal the wounds from our present we must face our past. It is essential that we who are United Methodists remember this history as a way of not treating others in the negative ways our predecessors once were treated.

There are many, many stories I have read of individuals who came to Junaluska to participate in events years ago. Here is one story I found of an individual who describes her experience here at the Lake:

"Margaret Hardin: We always brought our Black servant with us. She was like a member of the family . There was a place down near the cafeteria where the servants had sort of a dormitory and had their own services. Mammie would keep house for us and then go down there. She seemed to enjoy coming here and attending the services."**

Even though Margaret Hardin's experiences happened more than 60 years ago, seeking reconciliation is the first step towards righting a wrong. In the eyes of many who are like me and experience systemic discrimination, an apology matters greatly. By requesting this apology from Lake Junaluska our conference is making a statement that **we can do better, and we shall.**

The Historical Statement in the United Methodist Book of Discipline provides a history of Methodism's response to race and racism...America's original sin. Can we as Methodists in Holston continue to be silent about the experience of Methodism and race on this facility? I say No! We cannot be silent.

The United Methodist Church and the Holston Conference have a racial history...a "story" that needs to be shared and discussed and, **it must be shared.** This is a powerful ministry opportunity "for such a time as this."

Respectfully submitted,
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**Quote above taken from this book:

THE LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST:

THE LAUGHTER, THE STRUGGLES, AND THE LOVE

By Diane Stanton-Rich

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