



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NORTH GEORGIA EPISCOPAL AREA

SUE HAUPERT-JOHNSON
RESIDENT BISHOP

JUDY IMIG-BUSH
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

September 17, 2021

Dear Committee on Investigation Members:

Thank you for serving the Annual Conference in this important work. I know this is difficult work, and I appreciate your willingness to engage in it. I also appreciate the significant amount of time and energy required of you.

I would like to update you on the action the Cabinet and I have taken in response to your administrative referral back to us. District Superintendent Cruz and I met with Rev. William Kim and the Staff Parish Committee of the Korean Church of Atlanta (KCA).

The Cabinet and I, after much deliberation, prayer, and reflection, determined that having Rev. Kim stay under appointment at KCA would not promote the healing and reconciliation we all desire. I know you expressed hope in mediation or some other means of resolution, as is envisioned by the Book of Discipline's emphasis on just resolution. I note that part of any just resolution process requires the complainants to agree to the proposed resolution. In this matter, it became abundantly clear to us that the complainants would never agree to a resolution that leaves Rev. Kim serving KCA.

We also have concerns about the culture of KCA. The culture of any church is shaped by its key leader. As lead elder, Rev. Kim was charged with overseeing the administration of the church and increased his responsibility by assuming chairmanship of the administrative board. Serious financial improprieties occurred on his watch, and the culture we found there was obtrusive, uncooperative, rude, and disrespectful, not only to us, but to the auditors, the interim pastors, and others involved in the investigation.

It is our strong belief that KCA needs a fresh start. We agree with your assessment that the Annual Conference and KCA need to have a trusting partnership in ministry. To that end, we are delighted that retired Bishop Young Jin Cho has agreed to come serve KCA from November 1 to July 1. Bishop Cho is a wise and spiritually mature man of prayer. The SPRC of KCA and its members will welcome him as a widely respected figure throughout the connection. Rev. Minho Chung, who has done a miraculous job of calming things down and being a trusted voice in the mix, will stay until July to continue his good work with younger generations.

We are also concerned for Rev. Kim and his healing. We had one Korean church appointment available at this time, the Korean Church of LaGrange. The Conference will add to the compensation package so that Rev. Kim will only lose \$10,000 in direct compensation. We will also have him meet with our Conference Clergy Effectiveness Committee. This committee is not punitive in its work but seeks to identify and strengthen leadership qualities and address other areas of concern in clergy. It has done excellent work with other clergy, and Rev. Kim will benefit from its supportive guidance and instruction.

I am pleased to report that Bishop Cho and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung have offered their support and they will be assisting me in discerning the next senior leader of KCA and a new appointment for Rev. Kim after he completes his work with Clergy Effectiveness.

I am also pleased to note that we have been hard at work building positive, trusting relationships with other Korean churches in the Annual Conference. The Korean Church at Hamilton Mill has recently expressed its appreciation for the structure and accountability of the UMC and its commitment to our future together. Rev. Minh Chung and Dr. Millie Kim are leading us in this relational work.

Thank you again for your work on this matter. We have learned a lot and I think we have in place a foundation to start fresh with a deeper, more mutual relationship with the Korean churches in our connection. I would appreciate your continued prayer as this work continues.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Haupt-Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours in Christ,".