First Church
UNITED METHODIST
EVANSTON

October 1, 2020

Dr. Michael Nabors,
President, NAACP Evanston North Shore
2100 Dewey Ave, Ste. 302A
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Dr. Nabors,

I must write to publicly denounce and reject racism and white supremacy. In my baptismal vows, I was called and anointed "to renounce the spiritual power of wickedness" and "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." If I do not speak up, I will make Christian baptism meaningless.

We are now aware that our neighbor's Covid-19 status greatly affects us all, in that same way, racism and white supremacy towards our neighbor does affect us all. Racism and white supremacy chokes the life and dreams out of black people, it demonizes white people and makes them less than human, and it trashes our life together with suspicion as a community. The battle against racism and white supremacy demands "all hands on deck".

As Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church, the first church built in Evanston, I stand on the shoulders of Dr. Ernest Fremont Tittle. In 1921, Dr. Tittle thundered a sermon to his white congregation saying, "of all modern devils, and their name is legion, there is none which more urgently needs to be exorcised than does this lingering prejudice which people of one race feel toward people of another." Twenty-three years later in 1944, Dr. Tittle penned a statement saying that racism and white supremacy "is evil, being the prolific mother of injustice, dissension, and division in any society that practices it."

I continue the work.

Sincerely,

R. Grace Imathiu