



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

January 18, 2019

Council of Bishops
c/o The Right Rev. Reginald T. Jackson, President
African Methodist Episcopal Church
500 8th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Council of Bishops, brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to extend the condolences of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America upon receiving news of the death of Senior Bishop McKinley Young.

We give thanks to God for the exemplary leadership Bishop McKinley Young provided to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to the ecumenical movement as a whole, and for the relations between our two churches, which he strongly encouraged, especially on matters of racial justice.

Though our hearts are heavy with grief, we are reminded of the ultimate hope we share in Jesus Christ, in whose life, death, and resurrection we are already united. "For if we have been united with him in a death like this, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5 NRSV).

We will continue to honor Bishop McKinley Young's legacy amongst us as we seek deeper, more authentic relationships, work to mend brokenness amongst Christians, and join together for justice and peace for all of creation.

We ask that you extend our love and condolences to the entire McKinley Young family. We will continue to pray for you all, and for the whole African Methodist Episcopal Church. May God, who is the Comforter, be with you now and always.

In Christ,

Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop