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Rev. Jong Saeng Kim General Secretary National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) <u>ncckintl@kncc.or.kr</u>

December 6, 2024

Dear Rev. Kim,

Grace to you and peace be with you in this season of Advent!

With deep concern, on behalf of the United Methodist Church, we extend our heartfelt solidarity to the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK) and its member churches as you face a grave threat to democracy and peace following the South Korean President's declaration of martial law. This declaration, which sought to undermine the democratic values cherished and achieved by the Korean people, has profoundly alarmed the global ecumenical community.

We are greatly inspired by the courageous actions of South Korean lawmakers in reversing the illegal martial law, as well as by the resilience demonstrated by churches and civil society in South Korea.

As witnessed during the NCCK's 100th anniversary and reaffirmed by your recent commitment to prayer and action to restore democracy, your prophetic witness in these times of uncertainty and crisis remains a beacon of hope and a meaningful source of inspiration for Christians worldwide.

In solidarity, the United Methodist Church stands with the NCCK and its member churches as you mobilize the Christian voice to defend democracy and work tirelessly to restore peace in South Korea. We remain committed to journeying alongside you during this critical time, amplifying your calls for democracy and peace.

May the God of peace guide your efforts and bless the Korean people with the Advent messages of hope, peace, joy, and love.

In faith and solidarity,

Hope Morgen Ward

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cc: Rev. Minji Kim (ncckintl@kncc.or.kr)