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Dear Colleagues in Ministry with United Methodist Korean and Hispanic Communities,

I want to extend my sincere and heartfelt apology for the distress resulting from the recent announcement about the need for a new funding and action plan to ensure the continued publication of the Spanish and Korean language editions of *The Book of Discipline and Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation*. The unexpected financial challenges The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) faces, which undermined its ability to cover over \$116,000 in partial costs for these publications, necessitated a change to what had been a longstanding practice. Unfortunately, how this news was communicated caused unintended surprise and concern among many of our valued racial/ethnic ministry partners. I deeply regret the shock and disappointment many felt, and I am truly sorry for that.

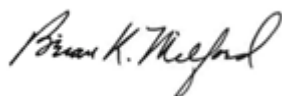
With the help of the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Council of Finance and Administration, we have found a solution to fund the costs for the 2020/2024 editions. I am mindful that my earlier announcement that a new source of funding or different production methods were required and, at the time, were unknown came during a period of intense concern about continuing commitments in the church and larger society for assurances related to providing accessibility and equity of resources for all people.

Please know that UMPH remains steadfast in our commitment to providing resources for all God's people as we work within our mandate as a self-sustaining agency of the UMC that does not receive apportionments. I regret that in the case of the additional language editions of the *Discipline and Guidelines*, the communication about the need for help to ensure publication triggered frustration and disappointment among our racial/ethnic ministry partners. We are very pleased that a way to address the immediate needs has emerged, and we are dedicated to working together to identify sustainable solutions that honor our shared mission and ensure that **all** United Methodists have access to the materials they need for ministry.

Thank you for your patience, grace, and partnership as we move forward. We welcome working with the National Plans and Racial/Ethnic Caucuses to:

1. Establish a schedule for periodic consultations to learn in greater depth about the challenges and aspirations of each racial/ethnic community.
2. Share with each organization/entity about our various plans and capabilities.
3. Invite sharing with UMPH a list of ministry priorities and specific resource needs for mutual discussion and evaluation.
4. Participate in collaborative marketing/communication initiatives to improve the visibility and access to available products and increase the number of copies in use.
5. Collaborate with the UM Korean and Hispanic communities and all denominational agencies to fashion sustainable strategies and partnerships that deliver needed resources for diverse contexts.

With deep respect and humility,



Brian K. Milford
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