



United Methodist Church
in Germany

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Open Letter to the Churches in Great Britain

January 31, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am very moved by the fact that at this crucial moment in the history of Europe you are looking "beyond the Channel" and addressing this open letter to us as your sister churches on the continent. We live at a time when people, groups, organizations and countries are concentrating increasingly on their own concerns and are anxious to set themselves apart from others. Both seeing the whole picture and understanding what unites people are in danger of being lost. This tendency makes the signs of solidarity that you have sent us all the more moving.

For us, too, the connection to you remains despite changing political and economic circumstances. For us as Methodists this is especially true, since we are descendants of the Methodist revival movement, whose traces of blessing led from England either directly or via the detour from America to Germany. We are deeply grateful for this and know that we are permanently connected to you, our sisters and brothers in the British Isles.

We assure you that we will remain connected with you in close friendship. We assure you that we will continue to share our faith, our experiences, our concerns and our hopes with you. We assure you that we will have an open ear for your experiences, your concerns and your advice.

Economic and political boundaries are now being redrawn. Nevertheless we will continue to stand together with you. We will continue to face the challenges of our times with you, seeking answers from the gospel and acting courageously.

As people who belong to Christ, let us carry on learning. Let us listen to what God has to say and let us do what He tells us to do. *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."* (Hebrews 10:24 NIV)

Together with you we want to live in our world and testify to what our Lord Jesus Christ taught us by his example: How to maintain unity, spread peace, live mercifully, communicate grace, grant forgiveness and practice reconciliation. May God's Spirit enable us to do this - to the glory of God and for the good of all people in Europe.

With heartfelt greetings and blessings,

Bishop Harald Rückert