

# A Statement on Charlottesville from the General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church

By Wayne Schmidt | Aug 13, 2017

August 11-12 in Charlottesville, Virginia we began to witness images of white nationalism, protests, counter-protests, violence, death, and tragedy.

I denounce any behavior couched as Christian that dehumanizes people and elevates one group over another. Our doctrine as Christians and history as Wesleyans in particular compels us not to be silent or inactive, but to engage in love. I call on all Wesleyan Churches to pray for our nation, Charlottesville, and for pastors and community leaders on the front lines risking their safety there.

I also encourage all Christians to grow in their discipleship by forming relationships across ethnic lines. In my own life I have found these relationships to grow my own soul, and also grow my perspective and empathy for how others experience these matters. God uses these relationships, and our discipleship becomes more holistic if we reach across such lines.

The actions of a few in Charlottesville are horrific, and the white supremacy of entire crowds is likewise troubling. But, it is also concerning when we look the other way, or wait for a more opportune moment to speak truth--a wait that at times never comes to fruition with action. We choose to actively listen instead, and appropriately speak into the tension with love.

Tony Schiavone is the pastor of Cornerstone Community Church, a Wesleyan congregation in Charlottesville, Virginia, and he is doing just this locally, following the lead of other courageous leaders in that community, across ethnic lines.

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In speaking with us on the phone Saturday (August 12) Pastor Tony told us, "Thank you for your prayers as I meet and pray with other local pastors and leaders. This is an opportunity for local churches to come together in order to reach our city with the love and healing power of Jesus Christ." The Wesleyan Church already has its statement on racial reconciliation and just last summer I felt I should speak out in response to the violence that gripped our nation in July 2016. However, tensions continue to increase to this day.

I am encouraged to see that people are gathering to pray and show their support for one another, in particular across the very racial and ethnic divisions white supremacists seek to deepen. Instead of their agenda, Jesus Christ will advance his own: building bridges across the divide.  
-Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church

## August 20, 2017

### FOCUS Wesleyan Church

“Encouragement for the Journey of Faith”

Joshua 4 “*Building a Monumental Life*”

#### Sermon Notes:

*Joshua 4:1-5:1*

*1 Corinthians 13:8*

## 1. It's all about \_\_\_\_\_

*Joshua 4:7; 21-23*

*Psalm 127:1-2*

## 2. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ purpose

*Joshua 4:24*

## 3. We must \_\_\_\_\_ if we want to go with \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection:** What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

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The Word of God directs us as we consider what the **next step** is for our lives. What is your life a monument of? Do our lives point people directly to Jesus Christ... or do they distract and pull people's focus off of God?

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**Challenge:** This week I will pray for following life-giving churches in our nation:

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## **Communion at FOCUS**

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

## **TASTE and SEE - Worship event - August 22 6-8 PM**

This worship event will be held at the John L. Hill Chapel. Iron Bell Band will be leading worship and praise through song, and Pastor Sebastian Angulo will be preaching.

## **Youth Group Tonight 6:30 - 8 PM!**

Friends welcome, snacks provided!

## **FOCUS Family Fun Friday - September 15, 7:00 PM**

FOCUS will be having a family movie night out on the lawn of the North side of the church building. Popcorn and water provided! Consider inviting some families and friends for a fun evening together!

## **Our Beliefs**

Wesleyans believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Savior of all who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life.

We believe that those who are made new in Christ are called to be holy in character and conduct, and can only live this way by being filled with the Lord's Spirit.

We believe in the Bible and its sufficiency to establish our faith and conduct.

We believe God wills for people everywhere to know Him and be made new in Christ.

We believe that the purpose of the Church is to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to reach a lost and fallen world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through its worship, witness, and loving deeds.

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