Sept. 9, 2020

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the name of Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Deliverer.

Leading a local church in today’s world is challenging in its complexities. As pastors and church leaders work to formulate safe processes for in-person worship, as well as begin a new year of program ministries within these same guidelines and contexts, the efforts to create vital Christian formation are new and must be creative.

For those who are beginning in new appointments, this transition is even more “adventuresome.” Still, for clergy of color serving in cross-cultural appointments in new settings, there are situations that arise that do not affect those in the dominant culture.

Often times we in New England see racism in our society as something that happens “outside” the bounds of our beloved United Methodist Church. Friends, unfortunately racism is everywhere and those who would utilize racist tropes and ideologies are everywhere as well.

Here you will find a testimony of one of our New England Conference pastors who has experienced racism in her local church.

May the words of our sister in Christ move all of us and stimulate our minds to seek ways in becoming anti-racist in ourselves, homes, local churches, communities, and nation so that we may enact change that will truly be lasting and life sustaining.

In His Service,

Rev. Effie McAvoy
Chair, New England Conference Commission on Religion and Race