

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of the State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

We write today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ that met together in Flint on Saturday, March 19. At that meeting, the Board agreed to advocate for the lifting of current emergency financial management in Flint, as well as all policies from prior Emergency Managers that are still in force.

Clearly, the present water crisis is the result of an Emergency Manager System imposed upon Flint and the ensuing attention paid exclusively to the financial bottom-line. Now, with millions of dollars being designated for resolving the water crisis, we fear that emergency financial management will short-circuit repair and resolution efforts. Therefore, we urge you to return democracy to Flint by allowing the elected city leaders to make the financial and infrastructure decisions necessary so that all residents of Flint might have clean water and healthy lives. As long as the disenfranchisement of leaders and people continues, opportunities for healing and wholeness will be diminished.

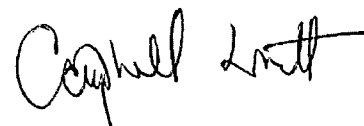
In our Christian tradition, this is a week where we observe how the principalities and powers crushed the One who sought to share life in abundance and a vision of righteousness and peace. That abundant life and peaceful vision were eventually confirmed in an Easter resurrection with its ongoing hope for new life and justice. We pray that the same resurrection power can be evident in Flint – with new life being possible for that city and justice for its citizens. It is now time to allow Flint's elected leaders to chart that hopeful course for the future by managing for themselves the funds provided by federal, state, local and private entities.

We affirm the words of the Prophet Micah who proclaimed: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an overflowing stream." May this be so for Flint, Michigan.

Sincerely,



Karen Holcomb-Merrill
President, Board of Directors



Campbell Lovett
Conference Minister