October 31, 2022

Office of Admin & Planning (Bishop's Office)
Methodist Building 16F 149 Sejong-daero
Jongno-gu St, 110-730
Seoul, 03186
Korea, Republic of

Dear President Bishop Chul Lee,

It is with profound sadness and shock that we received the news of the stampede during the Halloween festivities in Seoul in which 153 people lost their lives with many injured.

I write on behalf of the World Methodist Council to express our deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the people of Korea and the families who lost loved ones in this tragedy.

Please be assured that in these difficult days, we are united in prayer with all those who were injured and traumatized. We also commensurate with those who lost loved ones and pray that God will grant consolation to the families.

It is our sincere prayer that the Korean Methodist Church through God’s grace and wisdom will continue to be empowered to bring comfort, hope, and healing to grieving families and a nation deeply traumatized by the events of the past few days. As witnesses to this tragedy, we are very forcefully reminded that death is woven into the very fabric of our human existence.

_The Lord is near to those who mourn; he lifts up those whose spirit is crushed._ Ps 34:18

May the God of life be your strength.

Yours in the risen Christ,

Ivan Abrahams