I am writing on behalf of First Congregational United Church of Christ to strongly condemn the threats of violence against Dr. Charles Becknell Jr. The racist vitriol and hatred directed at Dr. Becknell must not be ignored. Actions like these are part of a larger racist society that has harmed and killed too many people. We must stand up to those who wish to do others harm or take their precious lives. It is horrifying that in 2020 violent threats directed to one because of race or skin color are still happening. It is time for our community and faith communities to commit ourselves to eradicating racism in all forms.

Dr. Becknell, First Congregational church stands with you. We will do all that we can to make this community safe for you. We commit to doing the work of confronting the systemic racism that shapes our society. The United Church of Christ is committed to a just world for all. First Congregational will continue our mission to live God's love, justice, and inclusion for all people. We will educate ourselves on the ways racism is at work in our community. We will resist hatred and violence in all its forms.

Rev. Sue Joiner
First Congregational United Church of Christ
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