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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

INCORPORATED

160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

LOCUST 3-9372

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June 21, 1963

Rev. Edwin King, Chaplain
Tougaloo Southern Christian College
Tougaloo, Mississippi

Dear Ed:

I have recently read in the MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS that you have been expelled from the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church. The fact that the vote was so close indicates that there must be some very troubled Methodist souls in Mississippi, but it is a sad commentary on the principle of simple majority rule that such an important decision can be made by a narrow margin of voters.

I do not know very much about Methodist polity but I trust there are ways for the Church as a world-wide denomination to keep you in the fold even though you have been rejected by your colleagues.

Of course, if your denominational commitments are not fixed, there are many other denominations (including my own, the United Church of Christ) that would be pleased to welcome you and would be strengthened by your presence. No church is the Church, however, and you know as well as I that no one can promise you a Christian fellowship free of sinners, bigots and Heathens! My guess is that you will probably elect to stay in the Methodist Church as a creative leaven. I admire you for the witness you are making and pray that God will continue to sustain you.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

Jean Fairfax
National Representative
Southern Programs

JF:mL