Dear ,

On Saturday June 4, 2022, the Michigan Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church affirmed a resolution entitled ***Standing for the Cancellation of Federal Student Loan Debt*.** The first paragraph of the resolution read as follows:

*We, the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church, stand for the partial cancellation of federal student loan debt. Therefore, we call upon churches and members across the Michigan Conference to write elected officials, advocating for the partial cancellation of federal student loan debt.*

Therefore, I am writing to you as a member/congregant of The United Methodist Church in Michigan, advocating for the partial cancellation of federal student loan debt.

In the course of our discussion on this resolution, members of the Michigan Annual Conference heard many stories about the burden of student loan debt. We heard stories about how not being able to pay back student loan debt affected people’s ability to buy cars or rent apartments. We heard stories of how people only paid off their student loan debt when they inherited money from deceased loved ones or sold their house. We heard about hard choices to work in careers that paid well, rather than careers people were passionate about, in order to be able to pay off student loans. We heard statistics about student loan debt, including how over 20% of student debt holders are over the age of 50, making this an intergenerational problem in our nation. We heard many stories about how student loan debt affects real people in our Conference.

We also heard about apprehension around debt forgiveness, including worries about how it would be paid for, or if it was fair to cancel federal student loan debt. Therefore, we also advocate for sensible solutions to student loan debt that are both just and don’t unnecessarily burden the American people. For real relief to happen, it must be both just and fair for Americans.

Further, the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church affirmed that we would make student debt relief and advocating for lowering the cost of higher education a long-term missional priority for our Conference. We hope that, as a Conference, we can find creative ways to help ease the burden of both student debt and the cost of higher education for our young people and, really, all people. We are committed to this mission. I hope that you can join us.

Thank you,