

## FORGETTING WHO WE ARE

Some forty years ago I joined a Zen tour for foreign scholars. I was a Professor of Christian Studies at a Fukuoka university. Professor Ogasawara, Professor of International Buddhism at Komazawa University, was our guide. He was very much at home speaking English.

We were 19 foreigners teaching in Japanese universities. We rode in a chartered bus cutting across the middle of Japan near Kyoto and headed northeast until we reached Obama Town on the Eastern shore facing China. We spent one day and one night at Hosshinji (Open Heart Monastery), Soto Zen. The next day we imitated the daily life of an *unsui*, novice monk. This monastery was chosen because they had 8 foreign monks who could speak to us in English. For one hour we freely talked with the foreign monks.

I asked the head American monk about Nagarjuna and Vasubandhu, masters of the Madhyamika and Yogachara Schools of Mahayana Philosophy. He had not even heard their names. The monks were not there to learn philosophy, but to reach Enlightenment experiences.

The next day we travelled to **Eiheiji** (Eternal Peace Monastery). Soto Zen had two headquarter temples, Sojiji near Yokohama and Eiheiji. Eiheiji is the more famous of the two.

They woke us up about 4 am and we were sitting with folded legs on our cushions by 4:30 am. There were about two hundred pilgrims sitting together in a huge hall. After the bus rides, I was eager to sit in silence. Zen sitting, of course is to sit in silence. Can you believe that a young monk began preaching to us through a microphone. I got very angry. Preaching during Zen meditation! The young monk was a skilled preacher. I calmed down and listened to what he was saying.

He said, "Why are we sitting in the early morning dark while all sane people are sleeping in their beds?" We are sitting early in the morning because we have forgotten who we are. We sit for half an hour or one hour every day trying to remember who we are. We work to earn money to pay the rent and buy food, pay the school tuition. We grow old and one day we die without remembering who we are. So we sit in the early morning hours trying to remember who we are. If we sit long enough, we might remember that we are Buddhas! What a shame to live out our whole life without remembering that we are Buddhas!

This morning we are not in Japan. We are not Buddhists. We are not sitting in a Zen monastery. But we have a very similar message— if we haven't forgotten who we are. We are Temples of Christ, Jesus living within us.

May Jesus Christ think through our minds  
May Jesus Christ see through our eyes,  
May Jesus Christ hear through our ears,  
May Jesus Christ speak through our mouths,  
May Jesus Christ live in this world once again  
Through our hands and feet,  
So Be It, Amen.

*Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

## 2021 MANZANAR VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE PRAYER

God above us. God within us. God all around us. We come once again to the majestic snowcapped Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. The mountains are witness to the hopes and fears of thousands of lives beaten, battered, and destroyed here.

We remember President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. Government documents admit it was "race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership." O Lord God, we remember the forced evacuation, lifetime investments in properties lost, farm land, and businesses sold unfairly for pennies on the dollar.

O Lord God, money in Japanese bank accounts confiscated, high school graduation interrupted, university diplomas awarded some 60 years late. Ideals of democracy broken, the U. S. Constitution ignored, and citizen rights betrayed.

Although 62% were citizens, we were called enemy aliens. While everybody called us "enemy aliens," the Quakers called us "friends." Hooray for the brave Quakers! Gov. Ralph Carr of Colorado advocated for Japanese Americans and fought against the internment. Hooray for Gov. Ralph Carr!

O Lord God, we were called "model minority" because we absorbed all the injustices, all the insults without fighting back. We had become a doormat people, licking the boots of our oppressors. We were docile, not because we were Japanese, not because we were Buddhists, not because we were Shintoists, or Confucianists. We were docile because we were immigrants.

The bottom line for all immigrants is the same in all countries. Absorb the insults and humiliation. Absorb the military drafting of our sons right out of the concentration camps. The bottom line for all immigrants is suck it up, or go home.

But immigrants are not vulnerable forever. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation fight back. We honor Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, Frank Emi and other brave souls. In 1942 Gordon Hirabayashi was sentenced to hard labor. In April, 2012, President Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom

The ground has shifted for immigrant rights. Already in California the minorities joining together have become the new majority. The future belongs to those who court the Afro-American and Latino voters.

O Lord God, America is no longer exclusively a Judaeo-Christian society. We are now also Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Daoist, Sikh, Jain, Tenri Church, Konko Church, and non-religious.

Let us pay heed to the Hebrew Scriptures. Be kind to the strangers in the land, because your fathers were strangers in Egypt. Your fathers were strangers in Canaan. And we would add, your fathers were strangers in America.

O Lord, God, we rejoice in this new America. No more Manzanar! No more Pearl Harbor! No more 9/11. No more Hiroshima. No more Nagasaki. No more Bataan Death March. No more Agent Orange. No more My Lai Village massacres!

Slowly, slowly, inch by inch, let us turn enemies into friends. No more shock and awe invasions. No more preemptive strikes, where there are no weapons of mass destruction. Slowly, slowly, inch by inch, by the mercy of God and in our last hope for survival, let us turn our enemies into friends.

Abraham Lincoln did not say, "God Bless America." Abraham Lincoln said, "May America become a nation that God can bless."

O Lord God, the old world of our anger, bitterness, and revenge has past away.

Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Tibetans, Chinese, Taiwanese, Koreans, Japanese, Chechens, Uighur, Rohingya, Buddhists, Shintoists, Taoists, Hindus, Afro-Americans, Southeast Asians, Pacific Islanders, Latin Americans—

Make us one nation united in loyalty, compassion, and conscience, yet rich in our diversity of faiths and cultures. Red, brown, yellow, black and white, we are precious in your sight.

Bless us O Lord! Bless us O Lord! Bless us O Lord! We pray in the name of the God of many names, the God of many faces, and the God of many prophets. Amen.

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Liturgy Team:

Rev. Roy Lewis Fry, United Methodist retired pastor, videographer

Rev. John Denham, retired Episcopalian priest

Margaret Hover, Roman Catholic

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi, retired Baptist missionary

Gale Yee, Episcopalian

For this liturgy as video ceremony: <https://Vimeo.com/535602557/e56babf762> paste to browser

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## ETERNAL LIFE: Quality Not Quantity

John 3:16 promises us ETERNAL LIFE. But it is a mistake to think that ETERNAL means QUANTITY—a long life. Normal life with all its problems already is too painful for some. ETERNAL LIFE in John 17:3 says:

*"And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

So eternal life is QUALITY, not QUANTITY. Living a long time—quantity—may not be any fun at all. But knowing God and Jesus Christ sounds like real good stuff. QUALITY, not QUANTITY. *DKYagi*



## THE BIG LIE

*By Bill Watanabe*

When as a boy attending Sunday school at my Christian church, I was taught to tell the truth. One of the Ten Commandments in the Bible specifically forbids telling lies, so God must think it is pretty important. I also remember how my elementary school teachers told stories about Honest Abe Lincoln and George Washington chopping down the cherry tree.

And yet in our society, telling lies seems to be running rampant and the lies seem to be getting bigger and more outrageous. The Internet has helped to spread so many lies far and wide while at the same time, sources of truth, science, empirical data, and verifiable facts are being castigated as “false” or “fake” and not to be trusted.

I can’t help but wonder what long-term effects this may have for our future generations. Who can be trusted?

The Nazis were experts in propagating “the big lie” and convincing millions of their citizens to believe that the Jews were the main source of the nation’s problems so that the good people of Germany looked the other way while millions of their Jewish neighbors and friends were being murdered. The Nazis showed it to be true that if you keep repeating a lie, no matter how big the lie, people will start to believe the lie and will promote the lie themselves.

Donald Trump is also an expert in the big lie and getting millions of people to believe the big lie and be totally committed to the lie and spreading it to others as the “truth.”

It is fairly evident from past behavior that Trump is a pathological liar – he lies about almost everything. Here are a few of his big lies over the years:

- For years Trump pushed the lie that Barack Obama was not an American citizen – a falsehood Trump abandoned when he decided to run for president.
- He bragged about the size of his inauguration crowd, which was an easily verifiable lie through comparative photographs.
- He said COVID-19 was “a hoax” and that it was “under control” and it would “magically just disappear,” which he knew was a lie when talking on tape to Bob Woodward.
- He said he had a national health plan to replace Obamacare, which would be “coming out in two weeks,” and months later, “coming out in two weeks,” and years later, “coming out in two weeks,” which was a lie because it never came out during his four years in office.
- He said he would build a border wall and “it will be so easy and Mexico will pay for it,” which was a lie. Mexico didn’t contribute a single peso.

But the really "big lie" by Trump was claiming he actually won the election in November 2020 but was pushed out of office due to mass election fraud. Trump claimed prior to the 2016 election that if he lost it could only be due to election fraud – planting the lie before it even happened.

The 2020 election results were certified by all 50 states; some states held recounts and Georgia even did two recounts of the ballots, but no systemic election fraud was found. After the election, the Trump legal team lost 60 out of 61 lawsuits regarding massive election fraud because they could not produce any legal evidence of fraudulent activity.

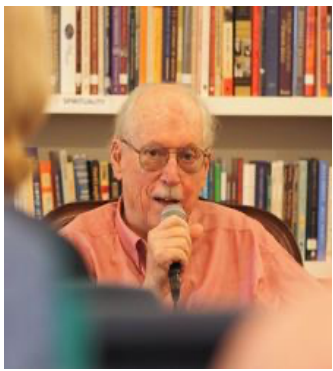
And yet, so many millions of Americans have bought into this monstrous lie and believe it to be true. These American citizens are not able to support the current administration's efforts to serve the nation. This of course weakens the effectiveness of our government and impacts our entire democratic structure, which in large part operates on a basic (although not blind) trust in the system, a trust in science and empirical data, belief in honest sources of information, which in turn can create a sense of unity as citizens of one nation.

Putting trust in a pathological liar would seem to be an obviously poor choice – why so many people would do so is hard to comprehend.

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## DRAINING THE CUP

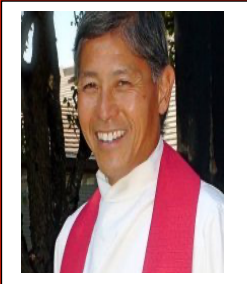
Dr. William Malcomson

Years ago I gave a sermon entitled "Draining the Cup". A number of people told me it was helpful to them. The origin of it was that we bought six friendship cups in Bavaria one summer. At the bottom of one cup was a painting of a rose. So if you drained the cup, you could see the rose but if you didn't drain the cup, you wouldn't see the rose. A person in the congregation who was HIV positive told me that he knew he had to "drain the cup" but that he didn't want to.

"Draining the cup" means that you need to completely deal with whatever it is that is bothering you. From my life, for example, I need to deal with the death of my beloved Barbara. I have not gone deep enough into my sense of grief and loss to unattach myself from it. I also have a felt need for a regular companion, but I am too old to be attractive to someone of the opposite sex. So I need to quit attaching myself to that fantasy. I find that it is extremely difficult to drain these cups all the way and then expect to see the rose. The rose, I assume, would be the experience of becoming unattached to what I have "drunk". I wonder.

Do you need to drink your cup to the bottom in order to find a rose?



BISHOP GRANT HAGIYA

## Stop the Hate!

I have been asked by a number in our annual conference to share a personal reflection on the recent spike in acts of hate and violence against our Asian-American and Pacific Island communities and individuals. I have been reluctant to do so because I don't want this to seem like I am biased because I happen to be Asian-American, for as your Bishop I represent all of you in a very personal and denominational way. However, because I represent all of you, it seems imperative that I speak out in a direct and prophetic way.

Have I personally experienced this racial violence? Yes, all my life, as have most of us who are racial minorities in the United States. I grew up in a poor Hispanic neighborhood, as my parents ran a small grocery store in that community. I was the only Asian-American in my grade school, as a minority of a minority, subject to all of the discrimination that brings. My way of dealing with this, instead of taking the bullying, was to fight back. After a lot of physical fights, you finally gain the respect of your peers, but it wasn't the easiest way to get along. It never is.

As I grew up and navigated through higher education, the racism morphed into a subtler yet more insidious form. I can't tell you how many times I was asked "Where do you come from?" or "You speak

English so well.” Because of my background, I very seldom just ignored it, but my Christian upbringing tempered my response. We racial minorities become very adept at knowing when things are spoken out of innocence and when they are designed to hurt you. At least, we think we are adept at that!

As I studied more and more, I learned how insidious racism has been throughout all of history. AAPI hate has a very long history in America and especially in California. All of the sub-Asian American groups have cycled through it, and we have all been the number one targets at some time in our history. The fact that we are mistaken for each other’s Asian ancestry is in and of itself the very embodiment of this racism. The fact that I am not Chinese (the number one target right now), makes me stand in solidarity with Chinese-Americans, rather than pointing out that it is just the case of mistaken identity. All of us as Asian Americans must stand together in solidarity against this looming threat.

Which brings me to the main point: that all culturally different groups have been subject to Western racism throughout our history, and some have experienced even more violence and hatred than others. I am dismayed that the Black Lives Matter Movement has been supplanted by the AAPI response, as the violence against our Black population has been longer and more destructive than our own. You can say the same thing about our Native American and Hispanic populations, as well as any culturally different group on our shores. We can add our LGBTQI population to this list, but we must remember that our ethnic gay persons suffer from the double identification of ethnic and gay.

My other concern is that with the six Asian-American murders in Atlanta, we are missing the reality of Asian misogyny, whether the perpetrator acknowledges this or not. Asian-American women suffer racist violence the most, and we have to deal with the racial sexism that has been perpetuated by our media and the worst form of stereotyping. Again, women of all culturally different groups have suffered from this misogyny, and we must name it for what it is: a true sin against women, all women, themselves.

Our nation and the world must come to a true reckoning: any form of racial or sexual violence and hate must be stopped. We can talk about it all we want. We can analyze and dissect it on infinitum. We can do what I am doing and write endless diatribes against it. But the fact remains, unless we do something tangible to stop it, it will continue on unabated.

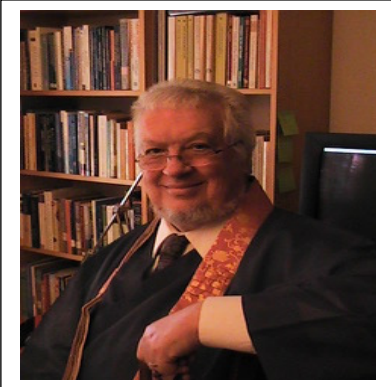
Through the work of Erin Hawkins-Smith, we will engage these issues of anti-racism at our annual conference Sessions in June. We will then spend the year in dialogue and action. As an annual conference we are committed to step up and join in action.

Now is the time for us to stop it. I invite you to join me in doing just that. As the California-Pacific Annual Conference we as United Methodists must take a stand and do everything in our power to put an end to racial and sexual hate and violence. Words will do us no good – Now, is the time to act!

Be the Hope,

**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

United Methodist Church  
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop



## **A CHILL FROM A DRAFT**

**Rev. Frederick Brenion  
Higashi Honganji**

As a child I often played games that were violent. And this was way before video games! There were 'Cops and Robbers', 'Cowboys and Indians'. and of course, "War."

The chief action was "Bang, bang, you're dead." And the chief arguments were whether one was dead or not. Then we were done and went home for dinner and homework. Play again the next day.

This young I became aware of a place called Vietnam. I had no idea what it was about. I do remember in a big way when a newspaper photo showed a Buddhist monk immolating himself in protest. Horrified and mesmerized at seeing a human being burning himself and yet sitting so still in contemplation. How was this even possible? I would be shrieking in agony.

This was also the first time that I witnessed such immense power within another faith tradition to resist and to witness. Troubling, and beyond my comprehension. This was 1963. I was 11. I went back to my play and homework.

Some years later I was hearing more about Vietnam. And I heard about 'the draft' – selective service. I knew one could enlist, but to be taken against one's will to fight, kill, and even to be killed was appalling to me.

I remember regretting being born a boy. Would God work a miracle and change me into a girl? I remember asking this in my prayers. Because of how and where one was born could determine life and death matters in the most arbitrary ways. The war was now in the back of my mind, surfacing in concern from time to time.

Soon I came of age to register, which I did unhappily. I had considered conscientious objector status. All I had learned in Methodist Sunday School had centralized love and peace as God's will within my thoughts. And yet my church was not at that point a 'peace church' for me to make any kind of solid case.

Most American denominations were pretty much middle of the road in politics and attitudes, and rather compliant with the government. I would have been willing to go in as a medic, ambulance service, etc. as my service. I understood that service to others can be a good thing, but please, if I must die then let it be in saving others not in taking another's life.



Joining a peace church then was an option too late. It would have been looked upon as an act of self-convenience and not at all convincing in sincerity.

So I filed. I did attempt to ask for C.O. [conscientious objector] status which went nowhere. What I wrote would not have convinced others and barely convinced me. It was pathetic. I tore it up and committed myself to whatever fate directed. And so I was dully registered.

It was now a matter of waiting for a good draft number and that the war might wind down. My number was decent enough that if things did quiet down, I would have little worry. We were slowly starting to withdraw towards that alleged "peace with honor" promised by Nixon.

And time did move on. I don't think I really passed any kind of test/temptation. Just eked by, like so many others. But over time my views slowly matured, became better argued, more nuanced. Politically I tended to vote more for peace-oriented candidates. In time I moved towards more developed liberal and religiously left views.

Many years later, to my great surprise, I found myself in Buddhism. It certainly has peace credentials, even though I knew there was a strong war/warrior component historically within many Buddhist groups in the past.

And I found myself being embraced by the Jodo Shinshu/Shin Buddhist tradition. In time I was on track towards ordination. In the process of being ordained I came to learn of a Higashi Hongwanji minister, Takagi Kenmyo. He became a role model for me of what was expected of a priest.

I found his life and what little he wrote, exciting and challenging. He argued for peace and struggled for peace. Not just for himself, but for the outcast members of his temple, who were ordered to serve as 'comfort women' for his nation's armies.

For his protest he was punished, sentenced to prison on trumped up charges. He was excommunicated and defrocked by my own denomination in the process. He died in prison just before World War I began. But after World War II Higashi Honganji began to examine its role in the war. Takagi Kenmyo was posthumously restored and held up as an exemplar.

Higashi Honganji has come a long way. A very big turn-around. I think I can proudly call it a Peace-Church, or rather, a Peace-Temple tradition now!

I will quote from a newly translated work from the Shinshu Center of America - *"The Teaching of Jodo Shinshu and the History of the Honganji Community: The Handbook for Shinshu Followers"*, page 91:

In June 1995, while reflecting back on the fifty year history since the end of World War II, both of the denomination assemblies, the House of Clergy and House of Laypersons, adopted a "No-more-war Resolution" in order to sincerely reflect upon

our shumon's responsibility for the wars, from the bottom of our hearts, we strongly appeal for everyone both within and without our shumon [denomination, sangha] to make the commitment to peace and anti-war efforts.

### **The Shinshu Otani-ha "No-more-war" Resolution**

**In the past, in the name of the Great Japanese Empire, we have brought terrible misfortunes upon the people of the world, especially upon the peoples of Asian countries, and in the name of the Buddhadharma, we have directed future generations of youth toward the jaws of death and subjected them to untold hardships--these are things we most deeply regret.**

**Guided by this thought of repentance, we make a resolution to disavow all acts of military aggression which hold human life as a trifle and brazenly cause the death of others, and , with the wisdom of the mind of faith bestowed upon us, we resolve to strive unsparingly to verify the war crimes that we have committed as a means of proactively preventing these heinous deeds ever being repeated again--this being the expression of our pledge of no-more-war.**

**Moreover, there were those, during wartime, who wished for a world of peace and preached the compassionate heart to accept all people as fellow beings beyond boundaries. Because of that, however, we labelled them as unpatriotic and even expelled them from our shumon. From the bottom of our hearts, we beg for forgiveness from them. Today, in every place in the world, there are those who have cherished the wish for peace and devoted their lives to the realization of it. We wish to express our deepest respect to them.**

**Transcending all ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious differences, we vow to work together with all peoples toward the realization of a happy and peaceful international community that will no longer permit war.**

**We make the above resolution.**

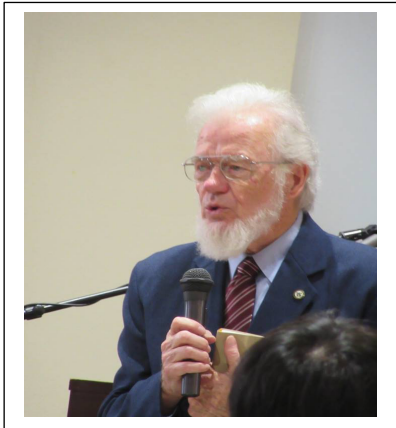
**All Members of the Shinshu Otani-ha House of Clergy, June 13, 1995**

**All Members of the Shinshu Otani-ha House of Laypersons, June 15, 1995**

And now I subscribe my name as the least of their clergy,

*Rev. Frederick Brenion, Shaku Hoju.*

## VOTING RIGHTS VS. VOTING WRONGS



DR. LEROY SEAT



### The Ongoing Charge of Voting “Wrongs”

As you all know, the vast majority of Republicans, led by the former President, claim that President Biden was elected because of voter fraud. They insist that the election was “stolen” and the voting “wrongs” of 2020 must be corrected by new voting legislation.

In an Economist/YouGov poll taken two weeks after last November’s election, 88% of Trump voters said that Biden did not legitimately win the election. He won because of voter fraud, which I am calling voting wrongs.

Perhaps that percentage is lower now, four months after the election, but a poll taken of the CPAC attendees at the end of February indicated that 62% of them thought the most important issue facing the nation is “election integrity,” that is, elections free from fraud.

Accordingly, more than 250 bills have been introduced in state legislatures to revise voting laws. All of these are ostensibly for the purpose of eliminating voting wrongs such as were seen, it is claimed, in the 2020 election.

The March 13 issue of *The Economist* has a major article about the “election wars” in the U.S. It is titled, “Heads we win, tails you cheated,” expressing their view of the Republican position.

Incontrovertibly, a large segment of U.S. citizens is far more concerned with eliminating voting wrongs than protecting voting rights. This widespread concern must be taken seriously

## **The Ongoing Demand for Voting Rights**

In spite of the charges of voting wrongs by the Republicans and largely because of what is seen as a concerted effort to constrict/suppress voting rights, the Democrats in Congress are actively working for expanding those rights.

In spite of the charges of voting wrongs by the Republicans and largely because of what is seen as a concerted effort to constrict/suppress voting rights, the Democrats in Congress are actively working for expanding those rights.

In the House, the For the People Act of 2021 (H.R. 1) was passed on March 3 by a vote of 220-210, with all the Republicans and one Democrat voting Nay.

To no one's surprise, President Biden is in favor of the House-passed bill becoming the law of the land. He stated, "The right to vote is sacred and fundamental—it is the right from which all of our other rights as Americans spring. This landmark legislation is urgently needed to protect that right."

On March 4, the inimitable [Heather Cox Richardson summarized](#) major provisions of H.R. 1: The measure streamlines voter registration with automatic and same-day voter registration. It restores the protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act gutted in 2013 by the Supreme Court's Shelby County v. Holder decision. It allows early voting and mail-in voting. It curbs dark money in elections and ends partisan gerrymandering by requiring independent redistricting commissions to draw state districts. It gets rid of insecure paperless voting.

Nevertheless, on March 3 before the House vote, former Vice President Pence [wrote](#) in a piece titled "Election Integrity Is a National Imperative" that H.R. 1 "would increase opportunities for election fraud, trample the First Amendment, further erode confidence in our elections, and forever dilute the votes of legally qualified eligible voters."

Citing Pence, among others, the editorial board of the Washington Post wrote on March 4, "Republicans' rhetoric on H.R. 1 is apocalyptic. Are they that afraid of democracy?"

It certainly seems so. The next day, Dana Milbank, a noted Washington Post opinion journalist, posted "Republicans aren't fighting Democrats. They're fighting democracy."

## The Ongoing Need to Protect Democracy

Make no mistake about it: the Democrats who passed H.R. 1 are mainly seeking to protect democracy. They are NOT for any sort of election fraud, such as

- \* people voting more than once in the same election
- \* dead people voting
- \* non-citizens voting for nationwide or statewide candidates
- \* some ballots being destroyed or not counted
- \* some ballots being counted more than once
- \* voters being registered in illegal ways or more than once

They just want every citizen to have the right to vote. That is foundational for democracy.

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\* [Here is the link](#) to the maiden speech of Senator Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) on March 17. In that address, he speaks out strongly in support of H.R. 1, which is now S. 1, and ardently appeals for the protection of democracy by the passage of the voting rights bill. I hope you will take the time to listen to Sen. Warnock.

This essay was first published on March 20, 2021 in Dr. Seat's blog,

**TheViewFromThisSeat.blogspot.com** Presented here by permission of author.

Dr. Leroy Seat and I studied together under the same professors for some years in graduate school in Louisville. Then we taught together for several decades on the same faculty of Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan. An outstanding professor, pastor, and administrator, he was elevated as Chancellor of the university for many years. You can enjoy the inspiring and insightful writings of this incurable reformer, creative thinker, and follower of Jesus by reading his blog. *D.K. Yagi*

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## Some Core Values of CPAT

### Black Lives Matter

**Reform Police Brutality.** (No choke holds, forbid no knock entries, no quasi police immunity, nat'l data base so convicted police cannot be hired in the next city, no shootings without body cameras, no rubber bullets, no political donations by police unions, no private prisons, social worker specialists to replace police dealing with homeless and mentally ill, no bicycle stops escalating to pointless killings.

### Protecting Mother Earth, our only Space Ship

Keep the oil in the ground.  
Stop the Keystone XL Pipeline.  
Protect the Arctic Sanctuary from oil and gas drilling.  
Protect National Parks and Monuments (Trump Administration opened Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Excalante to oil drilling, fracking, and mining, 2/10/20).

### Gender Equality

Equality for LGBTQ. (Supreme Court ruled LGBTQ cannot be fired from work for being gay. Biden renews LGBTQ in military)  
Equal pay for equal work (US women's soccer?)

### Citizenship for DACA. (Biden stopped DACA deportation).

### America's Original Sins:

Stealing land from Native Americans by betraying treaties and genocide.  
National economy built on 400 years of Black slave labor.  
National railway built on blood, sweat, and tears of Chinese.

**No Separation of Children from Refugee Parents on Southern Border.** Numerous large detention centers are being built to warehouse these children. These replicate WW2 concentration camps for Japanese Americans.

### Racial Equality: No White Supremacy

No racial profiling by police stop-and-search (vs. Afro-Americans).  
No infiltration of mosques by FBI, CIA, Homeland Security.  
No mass incarceration of Afro-Americans through unfair drug laws.  
(Rehabilitation instead of incarceration, fix drug laws.)

### Freedom of Religion

Freedom for Uyghur Muslims in Xinjian Province.  
Freedom for Tibetans in religion and politics.  
Freedom for Rohingyas in Rakhine Province in Myanmar.

### Religions waging peace, instead of war.

Preemptive strikes as crimes against humanity. (Iraq invasion)  
Nuclear Weapons, Biological Weapons, Chemical Weapons,  
Neutron Bombs as Crimes Against Humanity.  
Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons (No More Hiroshima-Nagasaki)  
Religions networking for social justice in major cities (Jews, Muslims, Christians. Buddhists, and Hindus Together).

### Power to the People, Democracy for Myanmar.

**Priority of the Poor.** (Safety nets for the poor and vulnerable, Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, food banks, health insurance for all, \$15 minimum wage)

### No US Visa Bans against Muslim majority nations.

(Sudan, Tanzania, Eritrea, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, and Nigeria were added to the visa ban, in addition to the 7 previous Muslim nations. 2/05/20).

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