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Dear Friends in Christ:

I am sharing with you a response I have written to a speech delivered by our colleague, Bishop Joseph Sprague. The reason I am making this response is because I have deep convictions about Christology, and I want to differentiate my views from his. I also believe that United Methodists want to know how other bishops think and if Bishop Sprague represents their views. He has never implied that he is speaking for anyone but himself. However, since he has spoken in a public forum his views have attracted the attention of many.

I reject any suggestion by anyone that a complaint should be made against Bishop Sprague. He has expressed his intention to adhere to the orthodox doctrine of the church.

Most of us have views with which other members of the Council disagree. Many of you will disagree with my own perspective. I think it is healthy for the Council and for the Church for us to articulate our differences in a common search for truth. Bishop Sprague has provided a service by opening up the opportunity to discuss the most important subject of all, the subject that Jesus himself first addressed when he asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Whitaker
Florida Area

