

Dear Friends,

I write this missive eight days following the presidential election. I offer this date so that you have a context for this message. What I write now, could well be different from what I might write at the time of your reading. It seems that the world is moving much faster than it has in the past. Specifically, President-Elect Trump may have made new appointments, declared new intensions, and/or modified previously stated positions, which would inform what follows. That being said . . .

I did not join protesters immediately following the election. Given that Inauguration Day was ten weeks away, and that Donald Trump had not yet taken the oath of office, I considered the demonstrations to be against the election process rather than against the president-elect. Though I was shocked (but not surprised) by the election results, I accept the anticipated decision of the Electoral College as the American Way.

This does not mean that I accept the decisions that the president-elect is making. The elevation of Stephen Bannon to senior advisor and chief strategist is not surprising, but shocking. Although Mr. Bannon, whose website has attracted “alt-right” racists, misogynists, xenophobes, homophobes, and anti-Semites, has said that he doesn’t agree with all these positions, inasmuch as he has failed to denounce any of them implicates him, and, by association, the president-elect.

As has been suggested by others, Donald Trump may have missed his “Jeremiah Wright” moment with Bannon’s appointment. In his run for the presidency, Barack Obama’s association with Reverend Wright was severely criticized. Candidate Obama clearly and eloquently denounced Wright’s support. In appointing a man who is a conduit for hatred, one must question President-Elect Trump’s promise to be the president of all Americans. It is time for the president-elet to disavow those supporters who espouse anti-American sentiments.

With faithful vigilance and with hope still, I am, as always,