



January 7, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Community,

The violent uprising at our nation's Capitol yesterday was nothing short of an assault on the ideals of our Constitution and the very principles of the American democratic way of life. We are shocked, angered, disgusted, frightened and saddened by the actions of this mob of extremists who in no way represent the values of this great nation, including the right to democratically elect our representatives of government and the right to peacefully protest.

Today, as an educational institution, Heidelberg University adds its collective voice to the many individuals from near and far in strongly condemning these misguided and dangerous actions. These rioters desecrated Congress, ransacked offices, terrorized elected officials and government employees, and caused four deaths. Their actions are counter to our core educational vision to prepare our students to be global citizens who think critically, communicate effectively and serve thoughtfully, and who do so with integrity in a world of change. The insurrection in Washington, D.C., offends our institutional values of respect, diversity, morality, ethical behavior, and justice for all.

We are a nation with different points of view. But we are not enemies. We are Americans. We can disagree while still respecting and honoring each other with civility. Now is the time to heal our nation.

Heidelberg University stands firm in its commitment to support and participate in the American democratic system by being thoughtfully engaged, respecting each other in all circumstances, and working together in service toward a better nation and world.

As we approach Heidelberg's annual celebration of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in just ten days, we invoke his famous words of hope and determination: "We shall overcome."

We can, we must, we will.

Please be kind, respectful and caring to one another.

Sincerely,

Kathleen T. Geier, '78
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Robert H. Huntington, Ed.D.
President