



I am sure that you may have heard and prayed about issues of human sexuality happening in our church, and the work being done by a group called the Commission on a Way Forward which was formed to assist the bishops in leading our church through our divide over homosexuality. Below are things we need to know.

1. Formation

At General Conference 2016 in Portland, there were an overwhelming number of proposals dealing with issues surrounding same-sex marriage, the ordination of LGBTQ clergy, and related topics. During a discussion about how to proceed, a clergy delegate addressed the bishops. "We are asking for your leadership." Another added, "We are in a stuck place... I'm pleading with you. Please help us."

The bishops returned later in the General Conference with a plan. They would create a group to research and advise them of ways to help us get unstuck, to move us forward. The group they later brought together is the Commission on a Way

2. Task

The bishops carefully formed the Commission on a Way Forward, inviting 32 people who identified on all sides of the issues to be part of this special group. Eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members constitute the commission. The work of the Commission on a Way Forward is “to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.” The commission regularly reported to the bishops during their work. Their final report will be presented to a special session of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri.

3. Issues

As the Commission on a Way Forward was beginning their work, the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) invited scholars to a gathering called “Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness.” Twenty-eight academics from three countries gathered for three days in March 2017, at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, to present papers and discuss the issues. Eight members of the Commission on a Way Forward attended the event.

Following the gathering, GBHEM produced *Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality*, a study guide based on the scholars’ conversation.

4. Who decides?

The report of the Commission on a Way Forward will be received and acted upon by a special session of General Conference to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. This worldwide gathering of United Methodists will only act on items around our deep divide over homosexuality.

Bishop Trimble will be our Northwest District to host A Call to Prayer and Conversation on November, 11 3:17 ET at Monticello United Methodist Church. We will pray and worship together, learn more about the three proposed models for ‘The Way Forward.’ There will be information, questions and answers, and time to discern together. And Northwest District Conference will follow immediately. I encourage you to join in this Conversation and pray about it. And let us keep praying and prepare our hearts and minds for the special session of General Conference. Our prayers matter!

Blessings,
Hyesook



A WORD FROM



I am United Methodist...even though

Every day is not sunny

Even though

I have heard some really lousy sermons...and I was preaching

Even though

I have been accused of singing hymns too loud

Even though

I think John Wesley was cool but not nearly as important as Jesus

Even though

Little children often skip up to children's time and don't follow script

Even though

Some church greeters seemed surprised when visitors don't arrive to church on time

Even though

Some churches suggest it would be better if they didn't receive a female pastor

Even though

When churches hesitate to accept diversity we block our own blessings

Even though

Some prefer to quote the Bible in part rather than read it in full

Even though

Other churches have cool names like Full Gospel, World Center, Bible, Christian, and Community

Even though

Some of our churches fail to update their websites

Even though

Our bishops wear purple shirts, but don't have colorful skull caps (or miters)

Even though

Our offering trays are not deep enough and rarely do we dance when receiving offertory

Even though

We think the Gospel is not expanding and the church is not growing because our local church is struggling

Even though

All churches fail to remember to celebrate the six United Methodist Sundays with designated offerings

Even though

We are known for being methodical but see a need to embrace new ideas (Messy Church)

Even though

We have a long rich tradition but desire to embrace (Fresh

Expressions)

Even though

We used to start one church every day and now some churches have no new professions of faith

Even though

We are not perfect and currently characterized as a church at a crossroads over human sexuality, covenant, and seeking a Way Forward

The truth is ... even when cloudy, the sun is always shining somewhere on God's earth

The truth is ... when children are skipping God is smiling

The truth is....The Gospel is expanding, the Christian church is growing, and God is still calling

I am United Methodist because I was baptized in this Church, went to camp in this Church

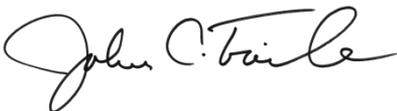
I am United Methodist because I don't need to be great to experience grace

I am United Methodist because I don't need all people to agree on all things

I am United Methodist not because I have quarrels with other religions or churches. For me, and millions of others, The United Methodist Church represents, "the best of all Protestant possibilities."

I am United Methodist because I fell in love with Jesus as Lord and Savior and discovered myself in The United Methodist Church.

Be encouraged,



Bishop Julius C. Trimble

OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS

9- Mimi Baird

10- Lynn Grady

16- Rita Fultz

19- Roy Fultz

21- Jennie Kellner

23- Carsyn Jesuit

ANNIVERSARIES

2- Shawn & Marcia Johnson



Servants in Action

October 2018

	Ramp Greeters
10/07/18	Phil & Dee Malavolta
10/14/18	Rita Fultz
10/21/18	Lynn Grady
10/28/18	Gail Scott
	Front Door Greeters
10/07/18	Elvis & Jane Mitchell
10/14/18	Mary & Roy Finch
10/21/18	John Smith
10/28/18	Diane & Wilson Seton

September Ushers: Allen Jefferies, Elvis Mitchell, Larry Meyers, Dick Brewer. (Jason Stowers to fill-in).

Children's Sermon

10/07/18	Trudy Bales
10/14/18	Molly Grover
10/21/18	Morey Johnson
10/28/18	Pam Meyers



~ Brushwood Prayer Concerns ~



Our Church: The Indiana Conference, Bishop Trimble, The North West District, CS Lore Blinn Gibson, Assistant District Superintendent's Lamar Imes, Rob Seewald, and Hugh Rohrer.

Our Nation: Congress, President Trump, Governor Eric Holcomb, other officials. Those in position of authority.

Our Military: Amber Buster (Laney): Florida (Dee & Phil Malavolta), Douglas Siedelmann: Army-Kuwait .

Our Missionaries: Wertzes – Tanzania, Evan and Lydia Smith with CRU Missions at IL University.

In Ministry: Wayne Williams, appointed to Mt Ayr UMC and Morocco First UMC. Hal & LuAnn Cohn appointed to Kewanna UMC. Chris Kosary, appointed to Raub UMC. Jodi Kosary appointed to Wolcott UMC.

Our Shut-ins: Bethel Britt, Mary Stowers, Sharon Patrick, Alice Tomlinson, Mimi Baird.

Those we lift in Prayer: Dwight Williams, Mimi Baird, Carol Danruther, Mary Stowers, Jack Warne, George & Joan Fox.

Our 8:30am Worship Service: Our Attendees – those returning to church, those seeking a church, those seeking God



October Meetings

- *Church Growth Meeting- Sunday 7th
Following Sunday School*
- *UMW – Monday 8th, 3pm*
- *Trustee Meeting- Tuesday 9th, 4:30pm*
- *Finance Meeting -Wednesday 10th, 1pm*
- *SPRC – Thursday 18th, 5:30pm*
- *Fruitful Congregation- Saturday 20th,
9am-2pm*
- *Church Council- Sunday 21st, after
church for Charge Conference Report*
- *Senior Saints – Wednesday 26th, 11:30am*

October Events

- 1st-4th Rummage sale Set-up
- Friday 5th- Missions
Rummage Sale 8am-2pm
- Sunday 7th -Communion Sunday
- Wednesday 10th - Trough, 5pm
- Sunday 14th- Mission Sunday, Jasper
County Recovery House - 9am
- Sunday 14th – Rensselaer Care
Center-2:15pm
- Sunday 14th- Pastor
Appreciation Day
- Wednesday 17th- Trough, 5pm
- Saturday 27th -Trick or Trunk 5-7pm



Announcements

Jasper County Recovery House **is in need of Donations!**

Items Needed:

Canned foods

Office Supplies

Toiletries

A donation box will be set across from the welcome center until October 14th. For more information about the Recovery House, their newsletter is posted on the bulletin board.

If you have a local event that you like posted on the bulletin board or in the weekly church bulletin, please place it in the Secretary's mailbox or leave a voicemail at (219) 866-3933 with the date, time, location, and a brief description of the event

