



Newsletter of the  
First United Methodist Church  
Huntington WV

January 2019

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## A Special Called Session of General Conference, February 23 to 26

At the meeting of our United Methodist Church's General Conference\* in 2016 there was once again great debate concerning legislation dealing with how the church would respond to issues of human sexuality and particularly how we respond to the ordination of persons who identify as LGBTQ.\*\* The debate was painful and divisive. A Commission on a Way Forward was created. Persons were named to that Commission from a wide range of views on this issue. (The Mission, Vision, and Scope of the Commission are found in this newsletter).

The Commission has worked to find solutions which will keep our United Methodist Church united. Three options were explored. (These are also found in this newsletter.) The General Conference will convene in a special session in St. Louis on February 23-26. A day of prayer will be held on February 22.

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### ***Bishop Steiner Ball has offered these words for us:***

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness and Hope of the World!

A Special Called Session of General Conference will gather in St. Louis to consider the report of the Commission on a Way Forward. The eyes of the global United Methodist community will be focused on St. Louis during February 23 to 26.

The West Virginia Conference will have 3 clergy (Mary Ellen Finegan, Sharletta Green, Ellis Conley) and 3 lay delegates (Judi Kenaston, Erin Sears, Rich Shaffer) in attendance as well as 3 alternate clergy (J.F. Lacaria, Lauren Godwin, Mark Flynn) and 3 alternate lay delegates (Connor Kenaston, Royce Lyden, Fred Kellerman).

It is critical that we lift these delegates up in prayer so that they are surrounded and bathed in prayer—not just during the days of General Conference but all the days leading up to and through the end of General Conference 2019.

Without a doubt, our beloved United Methodist Church is at a critical juncture. For many United Methodists, this is a most anxious and fearful time. For LGBTQ persons, they are wondering how and if there will be a place for them in all aspects of the ministry of the church. For those who have a conservative understanding of scripture and human sexuality, they too are wondering if there will be a place for them.

It is an anxious time—but we know for sure that we do not worship an anxious God. God's word is full of reminders that God is in control. We are not alone, God is

with us. This is not our Church. It is God's Church and God will care for the Church.

Most importantly, no matter what happens in February we have work to do here and now. There are souls that need the saving power of Jesus Christ, there are people to feed, and there are lives to be touched and served by God's love in Jesus' name. In the midst of the other things that try to distract us from our mission and ministry, now is the time for us to once again align our hearts to God's heart, throw off fear and live in faithful trust that God will lead God's people to God's preferred future.

Grace and Peace,  
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

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### ***Resources and opportunities for you:***

Please pause each day at 2:23 PM and pray until 2:26 for the work of the General Conference and our West Virginia delegation and Bishop.

February 22 will be a day of prayer across our global church.

More information can be found in on other pages in this issue of Tower Topics.

More information can be found at the Conference website, [www.wvumc.org](http://www.wvumc.org) On the website there is a section on the Commission on a Way Forward. You can read the full report of the Commission and find other resources for understanding the issues involved.

We will have an open time for discussion following our Wednesday evening dinner on January 30

\*The United Methodist Church's General Conference is a global gathering of lay and clergy delegates (elected by their Annual or Central Conference). The General Conference meets once every four years. They have the responsibility of determining the structure and rules for our United Methodist Church. Their work becomes our *United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

\*\*Current rules in our *Book of Discipline* in a section dealing with the Qualifications for Ordination offer: "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in the United Methodist Church" (§304.3); also, "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches." (§341.6)



# BUDGET REPORT

While all the year-end numbers are not ready to be reported, it is good to report that all of our regular bills were paid by the end of the year 2018. (We will provide a more complete report in the February Tower Topics.) We were able to pay 91.5% of our Annual Conference Fair Share and all of our District apportionment. While we all would like for our Fair Share to have been paid in full, our 2018 giving provides a significant increase in total amount over the 2017 payout. We thank you for our faithful support of all the ministries that we share. Your contributions to the on-going work we share is greatly appreciated. Please remember that during the cold season our gas bills increase dramatically. We need your support and care for our work in 2019.

## Around the Church

Bovard Stained Glass Studio will be in the sanctuary beginning January 7 to re-install our stained glass dome. (We are all anxious to see the results of this work.) While here, the workers will begin work on cleaning, repairing, and replacing the exterior window coverings on our three large windows. They will begin their work on the Resurrection Window.

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## Winter Weather Policy for Sundays and Wednesdays

Late December comes the first day of winter and the potential of stormy weather. If the weather is questionable on Wednesdays, we will make a decision by 2:00 pm concerning whether or not we will meet for the Wednesday evening dinner and programs. We will post the announcement on the First Church Facebook page and call or text those who do not have access to Facebook.

Pastor Mark will be here on Sunday mornings, bad weather or not, so services will be held. Each person needs to make their own decision about braving the elements. Please be safe.

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## Commission on a Way Forward Council of Bishops The United Methodist Church

### Mission

The Commission will bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions. We have a profound hope and confidence in the Triune God, and yet we acknowledge that we do this work in a climate of skepticism and distrust, from a human point of view. We are a connection, and we admit that our communion is strained; yet much transformative mission across our world is the fruit of our collaboration. The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition. The work is meant 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.

### Vision

The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.

### Scope

We should be open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse and cycle of action and reaction around ministry and human sexuality. Therefore, we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for

annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment. In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering “new forms and structures” of relationship and through the “complete examination and possible revision” of relevant paragraphs in the Book of Discipline. We will give consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness. If we ignore this work, fracturing will occur in more haphazard and even self-interested ways across the church. If we do this work only to address our preferences and self-interest, we will fail to place our complete trust in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. If we do this work with complete surrender to God’s unlimited imagination and kingdom purposes, we will be blessed beyond our limited human imagination. God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go. To God be the glory!

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

*Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful. Together let us pray...*

### *For those who are sick or homebound...*

Bobby Adkins, Randy Adkins, Dawn Aikin, Jason Anderson, Drew Apgar, Pris Beard, Kenny Berry, Mary Berry, Faye Brangham, Cyndi Bright, Mark Brookover, Jeanne Burford, Carolyn Cummings, Mary Jo Danford, David Daugherty, Leona Davis, Samantha Davis, Carl Dilley, Jeanette Dorsey, Scott Drown, Betty Duke, Jack Eblin, Meghan Elkins, Sue Furbee, Grace Hammond, Ginny Lee Hastings, Dick Hensley, Christi Holley, Johnny Jackson, Nancy Kincade, Timothy Lee, Gil & Sally Lester, Claire McClure, James May, Cheryl Mossman, Barbara Pafford, Nancy Palmer, Christine Phipps, Sharon Riley, Kaysen Rose, Charlotte Tallman, Bobby Thacker, Wyatt Weeks, Jean White

### *For those experiencing the waters of baptism...*

Lucy Caroline Brown, daughter of Mike and Kelly Brown baptized on December 23

### *For those who grieve...*

Ron Hay and family on the death of his mother, Eileen Hay  
Linda Eddins and family on the death of her mother, Dorothy Cutright  
Jaime Matthews and family on the death of her father, Jeff Maddy

Remember those in the military who are in harm's way.



- 1/3 GinnyLee Hastings  
Hadley Massie  
Killian Rowe  
Levi Krantz
- 1/6 Jacob Eddins
- 1/11 Sophia Wylie
- 1/13 Sarah Cummings
- 1/14 Hope Brown
- 1/15 Tina Goings
- 1/17 John Archambault  
Eli Crager
- 1/20 Sarah Young
- 1/23 Jack Patrick  
Stephen Fowler
- 1/25 Wes Shanholtzer  
Kevin Ray  
Holly McKenna  
Alex Bradley
- 1/30 Kerry Winkler  
Alex Hagan
- 1/31 Emily Tschop  
Cassie Bacon  
Zendal Tatum

## In Our Mail

Dear First Church Family,

I just wanted to send my thanks for the scholarship I was awarded. I have been hard at work here at Concord University! As of right now I am a history major with a minor in philosophy. I am a Bonner Scholar and the Ministry Intern under Rev. David Johnston. It has been a real blessing to learn here and it feels like home. Thanks again!

Gavin Brandenburg

Thank you to our church family and the First Light congregation for the Christmas gift card. It is a joy to share in worship with you each week. Merry Christmas and my best for 2019!

Marcia Canterbury

A thank you note was also received from St. Mary's Hospitality House for the donation of Christmas cookies, a surplus from the Cookie Walk. Thank you to all the bakers who brought cookies that day.

Dear First UMC

Thank you so much for supporting Marshall United Methodist Students in our mission of "Loving God, Loving Others, Loving a World in Need." Thanks to donors like you, we were able to take two mission trips last year, one to the Florida Keys to help with Hurricane Irma flood recovery and another to Wilmington, NC to work with various organizations to help the community in many ways. We thank you for helping us through your donation and prayers in supporting God's important work on Marshall's campus and beyond.

UMS

A mission of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference is campus ministry. The conference provides funding for the campus minister and for expenses connected with operation of the ministry. Program expenses are covered with contributions from the United Methodist Women, churches, individuals, grants, and fundraisers.

The Rev. Benjamin Wells and the MU students are inviting you to partici-

pate in a dinner, February 9, Saturday, 6:00 p.m., at the Memorial Student Center, Room BE5. There will be a program highlighting the ministry.

Individual tickets are available for \$10. There is a table that is being sponsored; and if you would like to be a guest at this table, please contact Pamela McCoy at 304-736-8502 or [pamelamccoy64@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamccoy64@gmail.com). Or, if you would like to sponsor a table for 8, the cost is \$100. Please make the above contact for the sponsorship, also.

Marshall University Choral Union, directed by Debbie Bradley, would like to invite singing adults to join us January 14th, 7pm at Smith Music Hall as we begin a new semester. We will be preparing a program of music to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day in April. We rehearse every Monday evening from 7-9 and welcome new singers.

## **“Simon Peter” Bible Study Begins January 16**

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That’s one way to describe Peter. Here’s another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn’t even sound like the same man. And that’s the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God’s extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. *Join us Wednesday evenings beginning January 16 at 6:00 in Room 201.*

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## **First Light Contemporary Service**

We want to offer a special thank you to Marcia Canterbury who leads our music each Sunday during First Light. A variety of music is offered from one or two people to a full band, playing more contemporary praise and worship music. If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the group, please see Marcia to find out more about the music in First Light.

## **Men’s Breakfast Scheduled for January 12**

The Men’s Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, January 12. As usual, breakfast starts at 8:00 and includes scrambled eggs, potato casserole, bacon, sausage biscuits, coffee and juice. Steve Hensley will give a presentation on the Honor Flight he was on with his father. All men of the church are invited to attend. Come for breakfast or come early and help cook. It’s all good food and fellowship.

## **2018 Mission Praise**

In 2018, First Church continued to be a giving church through our time, our gifts, and our offerings. Among the projects we have supported are: The Mitten Tree filled to overflowing twice with items going to warm children at Cridlin and Ebenezer Outreach; Christmas for 20 Ebenezer Angels; Campus Christian Center UMS-\$250 for Fall work team to the Carolinas; Rent support for families in need; Pot-a-Pot; Branches; City Mission; Cridlin-food, clothing and \$1,200 in protein food; 1,000 student backpacks of food; \$5,500 for Ebenezer cook stove; Flood relief; Youth work team; Guatemala Mission; Nicaragua Mission; Harmony House; Undie Sunday;

A special thanks to our Mission Team and to everyone who participated. Hope you are ready to be Christ’s hands on earth again in 2019.

## **No More Trash Bags: A Mission for Foster Children**

United Methodist Women kicked off this project by purchasing 7 wheeled duffel bags and filling them with items to ease the trauma of being a foster child who often carry their belongings in a trash bag when they move. Thanks to the Youth **Octoberfest** and the **Seekers** class, we have now purchased 9 more bags and will soon be filling them and delivering them to NECCO to show our love to nine more foster children.

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## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Where the Money Goes**

For 150 years, United Methodist Women and their foremothers have been organized for mission with women, children and youth. Beginning with two cents a day, we have raised millions to support the spreading of the Gospel, to build schools, to feed the hungry, to heal the sick. They knew that education is vital to improving lives. Isabella Thoburn left Wheeling in 1869 to open the first school for girls in Lucknow, India. Her school is now the largest women’s university in Asia. Mellie Perkins began a small school in 1912 (now McCurdy Ministries) to provide quality education to children in northern New Mexico in 1921, Myra Bowman and Emeline Welsh were the first teachers at Redbird Mission. The school still offers K-12 education to isolated Kentucky mountain children. Nobel laureate, Leymah Gbowee, educated in a Methodist mission in Liberia, is training wom-

en across Africa to be leaders. UMW trained Bible women are spreading literacy and the Gospel in Myanmar. Mary Uhl, a teacher from West Virginia, went to Uganda in 2007 to help orphan children plant 15,000 packs of seeds. Her seed sprouted in Africa. Selling all that she owned, Uhl bought land in Kenya and opened Living Hope High School in 2013. United Methodist Women are marching into the future.

The women of First Church are an active part of that journey. We teach, we learn, we serve on committees, we serve the community, we bake cookies and casseroles, and buy flowers and pecans. Thanks to your hard work, we have raised \$3,500 for Mission Giving in 2018. Our Cookie walk garnered nearly \$1,000 plus cookies for Branches, New Beginnings, Hospitality House, Ronald McDonald House, Harmony House, and City Mission.

**Gone Missing:** The banquet table skirts have gone missing. If you have borrowed them or know where they are, please let the office know.

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Advent and Christmas seasons are wonderful and exciting times for the congregation. Throughout the days, the church is filled with activity and beauty. Those activities, special programs, and decorations require the efforts of many people. Always there is the risk of leaving something important out (and we sincerely apologize if we do). Know of our thanks and our love.

We offer our thanks to:

- the Children and Youth of the church for their special holiday presentation of "Carol and the Belles" directed by Debbie Bradley. We were all touched by the story and the wonderful way it was presented.
- Margaret Reichenbecher once again coordinated the decorating of the church building. Thanks is shared with all those who helped with the tasks of carrying, decorating, and cleanup.
- We especially thank the Wednesday Willing Workers Crew for all they do around the building.
- all our musicians. We often take the music of our worship times for granted, but this holy season would seem empty if there were no music. We especially thank Sandee Folsom, our director of music and organist, the Sanctuary Choir and Lincoln Brass for the beautiful Service of Word and Carols, the Handbell Choir, and Judy Taylor, choir director.
- We also give thanks for the many who help to make the worship services happen---our greeters and ushers.
- the fellowship times provided with Wednesday Evening Dinners. We all enjoy the meals and know of the hard work it takes in preparation, serving, and clean-up. We thank our church hostess, Susan Nickels.
- the First Church staff, who work hard year round, but who offer extra energy and service during this busy time



## Notes from Debbie

1954 never looked as good as it did the night of the children's Christmas Play! Thanks to everyone - big and small - who helped with our recent production of "Carol and the Belles". The children did an awesome job, as did the adults. We always have so much help putting these musicals together and this time was no exception.

We want to thank all the adults who actually appeared on stage: Pastor Mark, Harriett Evans, (who still wants her large order of Jiffy Pop!), the entire Riggio Family and Jaime and Chad Matthews. A great job from all of them! And certainly, we owe a lot of thanks to all those adults who helped "behind the scenes" so to speak: Jeanette and Ken Bannon, Jerry Morse, The Wednesday Willing Workers, Sara Tschop, Elizabeth Long, Mary Ganzer, Susan Nickels and all the parents. It's definitely a group effort. A special thanks to Carolyn Waggoner and Terry Hensley for being wonderful choir helpers, attending rehearsal each and every Wednesday night, and wearing the best poolie skirts ever!

I think it's safe to say everyone (children AND adults) had a great time performing and watching this show. I wonder how we can top it? Stay tuned, because come January 9th, we'll begin a NEW musical for the spring and you won't want to miss it, either. This will be a good time for any children who aren't already in choir to join. I hope to see you there!

## INSIDE

### LNO

*What happens when life shakes you up.*

**January 18-20**  
Asbury Woods

High School Winter Retreat will be January 18<sup>th</sup> through January 20<sup>th</sup>. Drop off is at 5:00 pm and Pick up is at 2:00 pm. Cost is \$20 and will be held at Asbury Woods. Any questions or for registration forms please see Schauna Chambers.



The youth will be taking up orders for Oreo balls starting mid-January. They will be ready for pick up that Sunday before Valentine's Day and you have the option of white or milk chocolate dipped. They will be \$10/dozen and a great gift for the people you love.

## Youth Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a mandatory youth mission trip meeting on Wednesday January the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 or Sunday January 27<sup>h</sup> at 9:30. Parents and youth need to be there. This is to discuss fundraisers, community service, and other trip details. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Schauna as soon as possible.

## Mission Trip Deposit

The last deposit for the mission trip is due in January. This amount is \$100 and will be the last deposit as long as we raise the funds to participate on the trip. Please make sure to get your money to Schauna as soon as you can.

## Overview

### For the Special Session of the General Conference February 2019 Prepared for WV Conference Delegation Listening Sessions

The 2016 General Conference directed the Council of Bishops to offer a way forward that would maintain the unity of the church while articulating a path allowing for contextual application. The Commission on the Way Forward was named by the Council of Bishops as a means to guide our work. The Commission has 32 members from all parts of the globe. It is 1/3 laity, 1/3 clergy, and 1/3 bishops. It represents United Methodist Christians from a variety of theological perspectives. They spent much time in prayer, study of scripture, and conversation. The Commission was asked to “design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible” (Commission’s Report to Gen. Conf., p. 6). There are three plans and supporting materials that are being sent to the delegates of the special session. The initial report from the Commission is 93 pages long. There will be up to 61 more petitions that may be submitted to delegates in November. The process for considering the plans has not yet been announced. SPECIAL NOTE: The Central Conferences (Annual Conferences outside of the US) have always had the right to adapt the Discipline to their context and they have consistently exercised their rights. The US Annual Conferences do not have the same right. Consequently, the three plans will only be applied to the US church.

### The One Church Plan

Scriptural basis: John 17:20-26 (“that all of them may be one”); 1 Cor. 12:26 (“if one member (of Christ’s body) suffers, all suffer together with it”); Romans 14:19 (“Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding”); Acts 5:38 (“if the plan...is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them, in that case you may even be found fighting against God!”)

- “The plan provides a generous unity that gives conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their missional context without disbanding the connectional nature of the UMC. In the plan, no annual conferences, bishops, congregations, or pastors are compelled to act contrary to their convictions” (Report, p. 11).
- “The plan removes the language from The Book of Discipline used in the US that restricts pastors and churches from conducting same-sex weddings and annual conferences from ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexual persons. It adds language that intentionally protects the religious freedom of pastors and churches who choose not to perform or host same-sex weddings and Boards of Ordained Ministry and bishops who choose not to credential or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals” (p. 11)
- Under this plan, each annual conference’s clergy executive session would be able to decide whether to ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals as clergy. Each pastor would be able to decide whether to perform same-sex weddings or unions (as is true with all weddings). Each local church would be able to decide whether to allow same-sex weddings in its sanctuary.
- Local churches are not required to vote (p.15) nor are Annual Conferences (p. 16)
- Covenants are created with Bishop and Cabinet concerning and honoring local churches and clergy convictions concerning stances on weddings and pastoral appointments (pp. 15-16)
- Each Annual Conference pays the expenses for their own Bishop and office (p. 12)
- General Agencies continue
- This plan is the least disruptive to the pension plan (p. 12)

*Please note: This summary has not been updated in relation to recent Judicial Council decisions.*

## Overview continued

### The Connectional Conference

Plan Scriptural basis: Isaiah 43:19 (“Look! I’m doing a new thing...”); Matthew 9:16-17 (“...people pour new wine into new wineskins so that both are kept safe.”); I Cor. 12:12 and Chapter 27 (“You are the body of Christ and parts of each other”); Matthew 9:37-38 (“The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for the harvest.”)

- The plan reflects a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services. This plan creates three values-based connectional conferences that have distinctive definitions of accountability, contextualization, and justice (p. 26)
- The plan eliminates the 5 US Jurisdictions and creates three connectional conferences in the US (of which Central Conferences can choose to join or they may keep their separate identity). The three connectional conferences would organize around theology (progressive, unity, and traditional) and perspective on LGBTQ ministry. (p. 26)
- Each of the five jurisdictional conferences in the U.S. would decide which connectional conference to join. Any annual conference which did not wish to join the connectional conference chosen by its jurisdictional conference could vote to join a different one. A local church not wishing to be part of the connectional conference chosen by its annual conference could transfer to another annual conference which is joining the connectional which it prefers.
- Each of the three connectional conferences will create its own Book of Discipline which would begin with the General Book of Discipline (shared globally), including Articles of Religion Confessions of Faith, and the General Rules. The Connectional Conferences would create their own structures including electing and assigning bishops. (p. 26)
- General Agencies continuing: Wespath (pension), Publishing House, GCFA (finance), Archives & History, and parts of Global Ministries (p. 26)
- This model would require amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

**The Traditional Plan** (sketched by the Commission as “A Traditionalist Plan,” but completed and adapted for legislation by a few members of the Council of Bishops). Scriptural basis: The proposal does not include scripture references.

- This model maintains the current stance of the church regarding the definition of marriage and ministry of and with LGBTQ persons (p. 63). It would continue to affirm that all persons are of sacred worth and would continue to prohibit the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals. It would continue to prohibit pastors conducting same-sex weddings, and to prohibit U.M. churches hosting same-sex weddings.
- Votes will be required by annual conferences (majority vote). Bishops and clergy must provide written statements of agreement. Local churches vote if they choose a different path from their Annual Conference.
- Local churches, clergy, bishops and Annual Conferences who refuse to support the Book of Discipline will be requested to leave The United Methodist Church and join a self-governing church. They may leave with their property. Their pension will be frozen at the point of departure.
- “It is appropriate for there to be two different Wesleyan bodies who teach differently on the question of Christian marriage between same gendered persons” (p. 64)
- If a clergy person or bishop choose to remain in the UMC and violate the Discipline, there will be new accountability measures and mandatory punishments (p. 64) to ensure that bishops, annual conferences, boards of ordained ministry, and pastors uphold the Discipline.
- General Agencies continue

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Senior Pastor,**  
Mark Conner

**Associate Pastor**  
Stephen Hensley

**Director of Christian Education**  
Schauna Chambers

**Sunday Worship Opportunities**

First Light	8:45 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Korean Church	1:00 p.m.

**Next Tower Topics Deadline is January 28**



**Family Fellowship/Game Night**  
**Sunday, January 27, 4-7 pm**

*Food and fun for the whole family*

Come to a game night to shake off the winter blahs. Bring your favorite board games to play plus an appetizer to share. This event is for all ages. We will meet at 4 :00 in the Fellowship Hall.