

## MINUTES FROM WINDOWS NOVEMBER 14, 2018

### Week 2 of “A Way Forward”...

*What is the purpose of the February 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis?*

Delegates in attendance:

#### **Andy Stoker**

Senior Minister, First United Methodist Dallas

#### **Holly Bandel**

Associate Minister for Mission and Advocacy, First United Methodist Dallas

#### **Owen Ross**

Director of Church Development, North Texas Conference, United Methodist Church

#### **Tim Morrison**

Associate Minister of Music and Worship, Custer Road United Methodist Plano  
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, North Texas Conference, United Methodist Church

We opened with prayer by **Valarie Englert**, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Garland, who then introduced the panel.

Panel remarks:

- In our conference, we have 10 delegates, which is 10 votes // as a group, our WHOLE – World Wide conference has 852 delegates/votes
- The panel’s impression of the 2016 conference was that it was very tense at the beginning; when decision was made to table discussion on human sexuality, conference was noticeably better ... the global church came together. Worship was POWERFUL!
- Hopes and expectations for February 2019 are that we can move forward from a “stuck” place and have clarity.
- When the panel was asked about a split in the church, the panel members walked us through the “factions” of conference delegates:

Non-Compliant Progressives // Progressives // Traditionalists // Non-Compliant Traditionalists

We will **possibly** lose 15 percent of the Global Conference on either end of spectrum

## MINUTES FROM WINDOWS NOVEMBER 14, 2018

### Week 2 of "A Way Forward"...

*What is the purpose of the February 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis?*

- Some of the Q and A by our congregation to the delegates included:
  - How did the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches handle this issue?
    - While many Christian denominations have addressed this question, none have done it within the current environment, i.e. since same-gender marriages were legalized throughout the U.S. This has an impact on the dynamics both in the U.S. and as we address the issue on a global basis.
  - Is there concern about the church "splitting"?
    - Very definitely... as there was (with that outcome) in the past, for example over slavery, women being ordained, etc... This is where the discussion of different factions (non-compliant to compliant, progressives and traditionalists) was explained. The hope is that the Holy Spirit's presence will allow for increased listening, as well as an increase in our ability to continue to be in the same room, the same church as people with passionate, alternative views.
  - What if nothing definitive comes of the February conference?
    - Not sure how to answer that. Whether there is a full or partial decision ... or not, there is little that physically changes the day after the conference ends. But without a decision, it would appear clear that there will be more pressure on local Annual Conferences that are already facing numerous challenges.
  - How will we be the "UNITED" Methodist Church?
    - We are UNITED by our mission, globally and locally. To make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That does not change ... regardless of the decision ... and it has not changed despite past difficult issues faced by the church. We remain united in Christ.

All of these and others were more fully addressed in conversation by the panel.

- **Tim Morrison** worries about our inability to love each other and be tolerant ... and embrace each other. This is also reflected in our society today.
- **Andy Stoker** reminds us that after the conference, March 3, 2019 is Communion Sunday. We will all be at the Lord's Table again with nothing changed in our day-to-day worship.

We were dismissed with a blessing after thanking the panel for their time, insights and participation.