

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN TO VIRGINIA DELEGATION TO THE UMC 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Tips for Writing Letters:

- Goal is to encourage the Virginia delegates to the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis – from February 23 to February 26 -- to vote in favor of a plan for the structure of the United Methodist denomination that supports inclusivity of all people and ends discriminatory language that targets LGBTQ people specifically.
- The One Church Plan is the one recommended by both the Commission on the Way Forward AND the Council of Bishops. Other plans that achieve the objective of promoting inclusivity and ending discrimination will also be considered, e.g., the Simple Plan, which would remove all anti-LGBTQ language added to the *Book of Discipline* since 1972, but their outcome is more tenuous than a plan supported by the Commission or Council.
- Of all the plans, the One Church Plan, which is a more incremental and middle-of-the-road plan, provides a path for as many United Methodists to stay together as possible, and removes the prohibitions and punishment for same-gender weddings and openly LGBTQ clergy.
- In writing your letters, personal stories are always the best - why is a plan for the future of the United Methodist church that promotes full inclusion and welcoming of all God's children important to you especially?
- Hand-written letters get read by delegates more than typed letters. It is not clear that delegates will read every letter or email.
- If you do not know the delegate, consider a letter over an email.
- If you know that a delegate has made public their plan to support change toward full inclusion, consider writing them "thank you" letters with a short personal story of how their vote will impact you, your church, etc. (again, only if that delegate has stated their position publicly).
- On the back side of this sheet are the addresses for the 22 Virginia delegates to General Conference. Write one or more than one, whatever you can do!