



FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Welcoming. Nurturing. Serving.

Dear Friend:

This has been a time of disappointment and concern for many of us at Fairlington. On Tuesday, February 26, 2019 delegates to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to approve a Traditional Plan which strengthens language to reinforce the exclusion of LGBTQ persons from ordination and marriage within the Church. Fairlington UMC remains fully committed to the full welcome of Jesus for all people including our LGBTQ+ family.

Our first priority is to support our LGBTQ+ members and friends who are most hurt by this decision. We will also welcome, nurture and serve as the richly diverse community God has called us to be. We will worship joyfully in gratitude for all God's good gifts and we will continue to witness to God's grace.

This decision by the General Conference prompts us to think carefully about the future and how God would have us live out our faith at Fairlington. Though we can't see the way clearly yet, this may lead us to major change. We are thankful for like-minded United Methodists across the United States who value full inclusion for all people and for justice. If you would like to talk with one of us about concerns and question you have, we are available. We are here for you.

And no matter what, you are welcome here.

In Christ,

Mary Beth Blinn, Lead Pastor (marybeth@fairlingtonumc.org)

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