



First United Methodist Church

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An Open Letter to Elgin Area Residents,

The pastor and lay leaders of First United Methodist Church of Elgin are grieving decisions made by our denomination regarding the exclusion of gay and lesbian persons as whole members of the body of Christ.

As established members of an LGBTQ support network within the denomination, we abhor the repressive actions of our international organization and the draconian measures they have proposed to enforce them.

Throughout a half century struggle we have been discouraged many times, but we have felt certain that attempts to dilute, restrict or redefine the love of Christ could not succeed forever.

For many of us this would be the last setback. We remain where we are only because we envision a brighter tomorrow and are confident it will outshine the darkness of the present moment. Something new will come and we look forward to being part of it.

We have not asked or been asked to address this issue on behalf of other United Methodist congregations in the Fox Valley, but it's fair to say that an overwhelming majority of delegates from churches in the northern states rallied to support an inclusive proposal and many in our area are angry and disappointed as we are.

The intent of this letter is confessional and cathartic. It is painful but understandable that LGBTQ persons and their loved ones would feel unwelcome in our church. The outcome of this vote has caused many of us to feel unwelcome ourselves.

“...we envision a brighter tomorrow and are confident it will outshine the darkness of the present moment.”

Richard T. Carlson
Pastor

Karen Fletcher
Church Council Chairperson



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK