



Otterbein Outreach

July 2018

United Methodist Church "The Way Forward"
The Council of Bishops
May 2018
Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church says: Paragraph 161g

"The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Ordained Ministry – Paragraph 304.3 "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."

Marriage – Paragraph 161c "We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between **a man and a woman**. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of **one man and one woman**."

Unauthorized Conduct – Paragraph 341.6

"Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

Chargeable Offenses – Paragraph 2702.1 (a) (b)

"A clergy member...may be tried when charged with one or more of the following offenses (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage, (b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies..."

Since 1972... These paragraphs have been debated and voted again and again At every General Conference since, these paragraphs have been challenged but in general they have stayed the same with the exception of some additions about "God's grace is available for all" "we implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbians and gay members and friends."

General Conference , Portland, Oregon, May 10-20, 2016 The Bishops' "commission for the way forward" was created All legislation regarding homosexuality was suspended A commission of 32 people was created to study the issue in depth and bring to the bishops a plan

The commission consists of a wide variety of diversity: ethnically, gender, orientation, theological, lay and clergy

The creation of the commission passed by 23 votes

Vision of the commission

To design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of the **UM witness** in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much **contextual differentiation as possible** and balances an approach to different theological understanding of human sexuality with a desire for as much **unity** as possible.

Vision of the commission

...This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality but in our affir-



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mation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition” Process
Undergirded with an intentional and global prayer effort

Study of the scriptures

Presentations by theologians, historians, financial leaders, other denominations

Hearing from agencies, boards, churches

Much conversation and sharing of hearts and perspectives

Meetings

The Commission has met 8 times and has scheduled 1 more meeting.

The Commission worked together with a “Covenant of Accountability” of respect, prayer, study, hospitality, and confidentiality

The Commission brought their proposals to the Council of Bishops for their consideration and direction

The Commission presented three plans to the COB

1. **Traditionalist Plan** – keep the Discipline the same and include more accountabilities

2. **One Church Plan** – remove all of the language from the Discipline around homosexuality and same gender weddings and allow for conferences and churches to follow their conscience in their context

3. **Connectional Conference Plan** – have shared services but create three connections: traditional, justice and contextual with jurisdictions deciding which to join. Council of Bishops meeting makes a recommendation

April 29-May 4, 2018, Chicago, Illinois There was much prayer, conversation, voting and deliberation

They decided on the following statement:

“Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the COB will submit a report to the special session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes: All three plans (Traditionalist, One Church and Connectional Conference) for a way forward considered by the Commission and the Council

The Council’s recommendation of the One Church Plan

A historical narrative of the Council’s discernment process regarding all three plans”

Rationale

In order to invite the Church to go deeper into the journey the COB and the Commission have been on, the COB makes all the information considered by the Commission and the COB available to the delegates of the GC and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the COB recommends the One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church

Why the preference for the one church plan?

- It allows for contextualization of language about human sexuality in support of the mission
- It allows for central conferences, especially those in Africa, to retain traditional language and values
- It best fulfills the vision of a global and multi-cultural Church in order to maximize our mission and achieve as much unity as possible.
- It keeps the constitution and the structure and agencies intact
- It does not force anyone to act out of their conscience • It received the overwhelming majority in the COB
- It has the most space, clarity, grace, context and simplicity
- It takes out the language from the Discipline about homosexuality and same gender weddings and allows churches and pastors to decide about weddings and boards of ordained ministry and conferences to decide about ordination

Why include the Traditionalist and Connectional Conference Plan?

- We want to honor the values in these models
- We want to be transparent – there are diverse hopes and passions across our church

Traditionalist model

Affirms the current Book of Discipline language about homosexuality, ordination and same gender marriages/unions Places a high value on accountability Connectional Conference Plan Has one “core” that includes shared doctrine and services (pensions, UMCOR, missions) Creates different “branches” that have clearly defined values These values include: accountability, contextualization and justice There may be an additional “branch” if the Central Conferences wish to create one It requires 7 changes to the Constitution

Time line

- The documents will be translated now into 10 international languages and will be available by July 8, 2018
- The Judicial Council will rule in May as to whether any other business than this issue before us can be brought to

GC

- We will discuss the One Church Plan at Annual Conference (no voting)
- There will be town hall meetings on each district in the fall
- Delegation members will gather people for conversation as well
- Sept. 22 – the NEJ delegations will be meeting for instructions and conversation
- The Judicial Council will meet again in October for their regular meeting and will review the 2019 GC documents
- General Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO – February 23-26, 2019. The result of that vote goes into effect immediately.

Gracious exit

- Churches that consider exiting the denomination are still subject to the trust clause of the denomination with regards to property and assets.
 - This assure the continuation of the pension liabilities
 - The attitude in all exit conversations should be centered in grace and civility
 - The autonomous church option is part of the historical narrative but not included in the bishops' recommendation
- Special General Conference
- There will be 864 delegates – (½ lay and ½ clergy) from the entire denomination
 - 42% of the voting delegates are from countries other than the US
 - 30% of the delegates are from the continent of Africa
 - The majority of the US delegates are from the southeast and south central jurisdictions
 - Eastern PA has 8 delegates, Pen Del has 4 delegates

What do we do in the meantime?

- Be an unanxious presence
- Have conversations, prayer meetings, Bible study (resources are on conference websites)
- Join our special prayer emphasis: Pray every day from 2:23 pm to 2:26 pm (and a.m. if you are up late). These are the dates of the General Conference in February.
- Engage in the Wesley Fast (after dinner on Thursday until noon on Friday)
- Have an attitude of "Convicted Humility"

Convicted Humility

This is an attitude which combines honesty about the differing convictions which divide us with humility about the way in which each of our views may stand in need of correction. It also involves humble repentance for all the ways in which we have spoken and acted as those seeking to win a fight rather than those called to discern the shape for faithfulness together. In that spirit, we wish to lift up our sacred core commitments which define the Wesleyan movement and ground our search for wisdom and holiness.

Attend a town hall meeting in Pen Del or EPA

9/12 – Easton

9/13 – Salisbury

9/18 – Wilmington

9:19 – Dover

9/24 – East

9/25 – South 6:30 to 8:30 at Valley Forge, St. Matthews UMC

9/27 – West

10/1 – North (East)

10/3 – North (West)

Each meeting will begin at 6:30 pm

Most importantly: continue the mission of the church:

Make disciples of Jesus Christ

Transform the world in mission outreach

Develop new faith communities

Re-develop declining churches

Encourage and train new leaders

Be in ministry with the poor

Improve global health



What's Happening

Special dates

Independence Day, July 4

No Prayer and Praise for the summer months.

Will start again in the fall



We are still collecting items for PAC'S and Flood Buckets. Items can be put on the table in Fellowship Hall.



If you like to work in the dirt, or garden, we have a job for you.

Anyone who would like to keep the front of the church building looking appealing by pulling weeds and trimming the brushes would be greatly appreciated.



Our profit for the Sojourner Spaghetti Dinner on June 6th was about \$1100.00



Church Yard Sale

Saturday, August 25

8am to 3pm

Rain or shine

All treasures are priced to sell

There will also be food, drinks and baked goods



If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please contact one of the church members listed below. Be assured that your church family will support you in every way possible.

Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

(C) 484-356-4888 (H) 610-518-0231

Email: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net

Lay Leader & Christ Servant Minister : Dianne Maylen 610-983-0113

SPRC Chairman: Betsy Ettinger (H) 610-933-6371 (C) 484-802-0843

Church Secretary: Mona Knauer 484-880-9001

Church Office: 610-933-8690

Church Email address: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

Church Website: otterbeinchurch.net



A prayer for the 4th



Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in

books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate

You've got mail!

“What a wonderful thing is the mail,” someone has said, “capable of conveying across continents a warm human hand-clasp.” I remember the excitement of getting an “aerogram” from a grade-school pen pal in Sweden, or a letter from Mom when I was in college. How different from the instantaneous, typed messages we send today. Can you imagine, then, how

meaningful the letters of Paul, Peter and other apostles were to early Christians? Painstakingly handwritten, carefully delivered by a courier or friend — so different from emails, texts and even postal delivery! Think how elated the recipients must have been to read warm greetings, news from afar, teachings, even reprimands — and then words such as these: “My love be with you all in

Christ Jesus” (1 Corinthians 16:24, ESV).

The next time you read or hear a New Testament letter, imagine a time when such communication was rare and precious. Hear the writer’s words — which are also God’s words to you — from that perspective, and hold them fast.

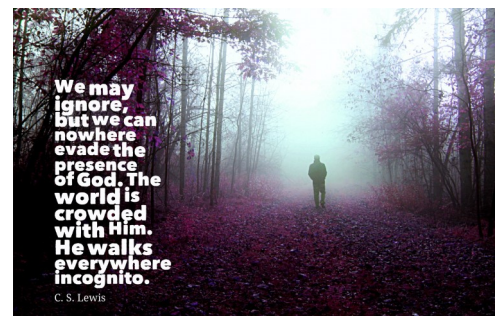
—Heidi Mann

Omnipresent

We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere incognito. And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to

remember, to attend ... in fact to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.

—C.S. Lewis



A refreshing gift

Oh, how beautiful is the summer night, which is not night, but a sunless, yet unclouded, day, descending upon earth with dews and shadows and refreshing coolness! How beautiful the long mild

twilight, which, like a silver clasp, unites today with yesterday!

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Worship Helpers

Greeters

1st - Wayne Wadsworth
 8th - Mel Hoffman
 15th - Joe and Nancy Kukucka
 22nd - Ochie Spruell
 29th - Cathleen Warner

Counters

1st - Dianne Fisher
 8th - Dianne Fisher
 15th - Bill Epprecht, Carol Butterfield and Joey Epprecht
 22nd - Bill Epprecht, Carol Butterfield and Joey Epprecht
 29th - Betsy Ettinger and Kay Kunsch

To Call for Greeters

Months	Responsible for List
January & February	Vernon Readman
March & April	Kay Kunsch
May & June	Cathleen Warner
July & August	Nancy Kukucka
September & October	Lloyd Knauer
November & December	Bill Epprecht

Readers if needed

1st - Mila Lambert
 8th - Cathleen Warner
 15th - Bill Epprecht
 22nd - Betsy Ettinger
 29th - Dianne Maylen



Altar Flowers In Memory of...

1st - OPEN (No flower delivery)
 8th - OPEN (No flower deliver)
 15th - Our Nephew, Cody Mohrey, by Lloyd and Mona
 22nd - Mr. Clarence Smith, Bill Epprecht
 29th - OPEN

Sundays that are open for Altar Flowers

July 29	November 11
August 5	November 18
August 12	November 25
August 19	December 9
August 26	December 16
September 2	
September 30	
October 28	
November 4	

Cost for 2 arrangements is **\$30.00**

See Mona Knauer if you would like to put in altar flowers in memory or honor of someone.



“Lord, remember me”

The funeral of renowned evangelist Billy Graham was a celebration — not of the preacher’s long life and many accomplishments but of his arrival in heaven. Graham, who died at age 99 in February 2018, was confident he’d spend eternity with Jesus but knew the reason wasn’t his

own status or actions. Graham knew he was a sinner in need of forgiveness. “I still need the cross,” he said.

Graham added, “I am not going to heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I’m

going to heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: ‘Lord, remember me.’”

Unqualified

If you’ve ever failed to qualify for something — or been disqualified from something — you know how discouraging it is to not be good enough. Romans 3:12 says we’re all unqualified, or “worthless,” on our own.

Thankfully, “the Lord never calls the qualified,” as author Henry Blackaby noted; instead “[God] qualifies the called.” Jesus chooses and appoints us to go bear fruit for him (see John 15:16), and then he empowers us to do it. Talk about

impeccable qualifications!

For an insightful video on this topic, search YouTube for Jon Jorgensen’s spoken-word poem “Not Qualified.”

Lessons from a farmer

Summer often reminds pastor Walter Wangerin Jr. of his father-in-law, a farmer. Farmers, he writes, remember “that we belong to the earth, and the earth belongs to God.” Recalling his father-in-law working the fields, he states, “Surely I don’t suppose that we shall live by the horse again, but I plead that we live on this earth with reverence.”

Because God gave people “dominion” over creation (see Genesis 1:28), we are “God’s emblem within the universe, God’s signature upon the work he had accomplished,” Wangerin

writes. “We were placed here to serve God by serving the earth and so to be served by it.”

Who demonstrates that better than a farmer nurturing soil and seeds to yield abundant harvest? “By his reverential stance,” Wangerin concludes, “the farmer calls again for honor to God and kindness to creation, that we dress and till and keep it rightly.”

—based on *Measuring the Days*





- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 2 | Michael Mansur |
| | Neil Mansur |
| 3 | Kathleen Byrne |
| 4 | Gloria Murray |
| | Kathy Wadsworth |
| 7 | Margaret McDermott |
| | Todd Van Horn |
| 10 | Jake Zanar |
| 12 | Mark Garrett, Jr |
| 13 | Max Biagini |
| 15 | Stephanie Knauer |
| 21 | Kelly Knier |
| | Doris Morrow |
| | John Green, Jr |
| 23 | Kevin McCorkle |
| 24 | JoAnn Holley |
| | Marissa Hoffman |
| 30 | Charlene Rapp |

If I have missed your birthday last year, please let me know. I am trying to update the birthday list.

Thanks

Mona

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Pray List

Sharon Beard
Tiffany, Michael and Tia Berkey
Paul Bochnak
Dave Boljonis
Walt and Timi Cory
Mr. Edwin Cullinan
Tony DiNardo and family
Joey Epprecht
Bob and Loretta Hanks
Robbie Harper
Betty Jaworski
Justin Kifer
Kay Kunsch
Jim Maylen
Dolores Miller
Joanne Neitzler
Marilyn Patzuk
Reggie Ryberg
George Santiago
Maryjane Schum
Family of Joe Sparano
Ben Stippich
Larry Trisch
Cathleen Warner
Matt Weikel
Elyce Wescott
Bob Wilt
Dawn Wilt
Janice Wood

Serving our Country

Scott Bowen

US Army, Afghanistan

Ronnie Brandafino

Elizabeth Stippich, PAANG

TSGT Nicholas R Wilt

In Our Neighborhood

President Donald Trump

All Our Government Leaders

Pastor Deborah and her family

For those in storms and floods

Victims of Shooting and bombings

The congregation of Otterbein UMC, Harrisburg, PA.

Fire in the Sunday School wing. (home church of Allison Mendelsohn)



Beatrice (Bea) Collemacine

Pennsburg Manor

530 Macoby Street

Room 215B

Pennsburg, PA 18073

Fran Erskine

Marilyn Patzuk

839 Hollow Road, RD #1

Phoenixville, PA 19460

Janice Wood

625 Nutt Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460





Eastern PA Conference and Local Church Events

Mission U July 20-21, 2018

Deadline for registration is June 20 (late fee of \$25.00 after June 20)

Mission U is to help church members (lay and clergy, men, women and youth) understand and interpret the global mission of the church and the responsibility of Christians within that work of United Methodist Women; and to offer an integrated program of Mission Education, Christian Social Action, and Program Planning. More information and registration form is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

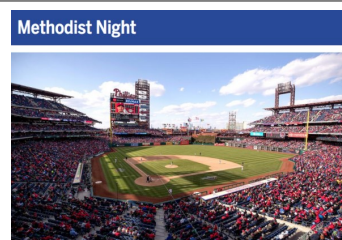
July 21: Zoar UMC Gospel Cruise

Zoar UMC Gospel Cruise: "Spirit of Philadelphia" cruise sponsored by Zoar's UMW and Vintage Saints Club. Boarding time is 11 AM. **Saturday, July 21.** Cost \$75.

United Methodist Night at the Phillies, Saturday, July 21, at Citizens Bank Park

The Phillies will host and play the San Diego Padres at 7:05 PM. UM members and guests discounted prices: \$20-\$47.

Partial proceeds from tickets sold with the **METHODIST** discount will **benefit UM Men's ministries.**



Visit the Phillies ticket specials webpage: mlb.com/phillies/tickets/specials/methodist.

Click on the "**Buy Now**" button and use the password **METHODIST** to order your tickets today.

For groups of 25 or more, please contact Bryan Angione in the Group Sales Office at 215-463-5000, ext. 5465. All groups of 25 or more will be welcomed on the Phillies side auxiliary message boards at the top of the 5th inning.



The 35th Laity Academy's

August 3rd to the 5th, at Quakertown UMC.

Theme is '**Pass It On – Spreading God's Word Through Action!**'

As members of Christ's Church we all have a role to play – no matter how small or large – Paul says it very directly in Corinthians 12 where he tells us that every part of the body of Christ has a role and that the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body."

Registration is now open.



Bible Quiz

How did Jesus heal the blind man at the pool of Siloam?

- A. Put mud on his eyes and told him to go wash in the pool.
- B. Laid his hands on the man's head and prayed.
- C. Touched his eyes, but at first the man said people looked like trees walking, so Jesus had to do it again.
- D. Told him to go to the priests; as the man went, he was healed.



Answer on page 10

Christian Symbol

Lamp

A lamp symbolizes the Word of God: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). It also may represent wisdom, based on Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13). Additionally, a lamp may symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit — and life itself.



Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn _ _ _ O _ _
2. illy fo het elavyl _ _ _ _ _ L _ _ _ _ _
3. albm fo dgo _ _ _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _
4. estmra _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _
5. sseju _ _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ _
6. okrc _ _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _ _
7. rdbae fo fiel _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _
8. htligi fo eth dwlro _ _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ _ _
9. voasir _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _
10. dori _ _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ _ _
11. ishcr _ _ _ _ _ R _ _ _ _ _
12. ehspdr _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _
13. teh down _ _ _ _ _ N _ _ _ _ _
14. rncpie fo cepae _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _

What do these have in common?

Answer: Names of God's Son





PUZZLE PAGE



Summer is the perfect time to gaze at the wonders in the sky. Make this craft as a reminder of God's handiwork — including you!

What you need:

- Glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Glue (and water)
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Star sequins
- Battery-operated tea light



What you do:

1. Around the jar's opening, write in permanent marker: Shine ... like stars in the sky. Philippians 2:15
2. Pour some glue on the plate. Thin with some water.
3. "Paint" the outside of the jar with glue and then sprinkle on some sequins. Let dry.
4. Add the tea light and give your bedroom a starry glow at nighttime.



Wonders of creation
Our Creator is in control of the entire universe!

Our Creator is in control **U** of the entire universe!

Directions: Beginning with column 1, go down each column until you come to a dot. Write the letter that's found to the left of the dot on the blank below to complete Psalm 147:4, NIV. (Some columns have more than one letter.)

[illegible]

PSALM 147:4, NIV

Answer: He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Psalm 147:4, NIV

Answer: A (See John 9:6-7.)



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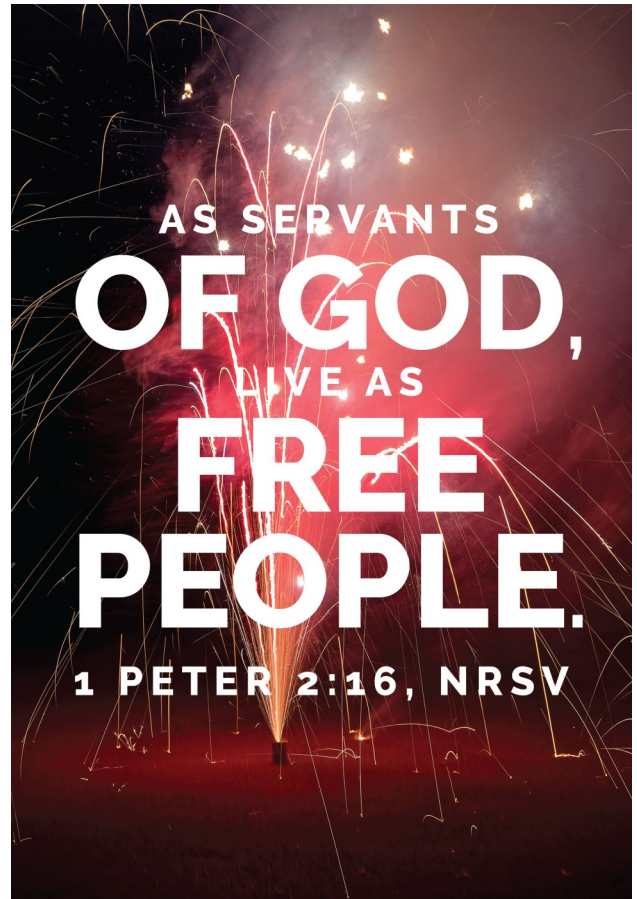
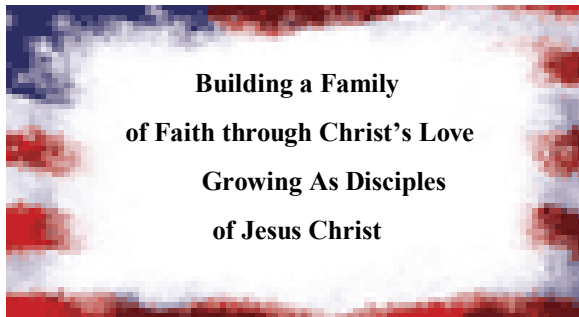
E-mail: otterbeinumchurch@verizon.net

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Pastor Deborah Gildart-Hanks

Cell: 484-356-4888 Home: 610-518-0231

E-mail: pastor@otterbeinchurch.net



10:00am Worship

11:15am Sunday School

First Sunday of each month is Communion

2nd and 4th Sundays 9:15am Praise and Prayer