



February 27, 2019

Yesterday was the final day of the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church, held in Saint Louis, Missouri. This special session was called in an effort to find a way forward through the global church's disagreements about sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

There were three plans presented. In our opinion, two plans (The Simple Plan and the One Church Plan) would have made the United Methodist Church more just and welcoming, while still allowing for differences of opinion on matters of human sexuality. Both failed.

A third plan, called The Traditional Plan passed. This plan keeps the traditional language around homosexuality in the Book of Discipline. It also calls for greater consequences for clergy and bishops who, based on their own understanding of Scripture, choose to fully affirm the inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church including marriage and ordination. Under this plan, there is no room for people of deep faith to come to different conclusions on matters of human sexuality.

The Well is a diverse community of faith and we may hold different views on the proceedings at the General Conference. The Governance Team, however, is saddened by the decision and we recognize the pain that this has caused our brothers and sisters who are LGBTQ and to the people who support and love them.

It will take several weeks or months to fully understand the implication of the votes that took place in St. Louis and the church constitutionality of the votes.

Bishop Bruce Ough has scheduled a day with the clergy of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on Monday, March 11th, where we hope to learn more about what this means moving forward.

No matter what happened in St. Louis, or what will happen in the weeks and months ahead, The Well will continue to live out our purpose of "Connecting People to Jesus for the Transformation of Our Community". We will continue to live out our four core values:

- Living Like Jesus
- Inclusive of All
- Intentionally Non-Partisan
- Caring for Kids

Please join the leadership of our congregation as we pray for our local church and its ministries, along with prayers for our global United Methodist Church.

In Christ,
The Governance Team of The Well, a United Methodist Church

Rev. Karen Bruins, Dr. Okokon Udo, Emmanuel Amenuvor, Alison Bents, Logan Zvolena, Krysten Edwards, David K. Christian, Walter Pickup, Tom Montgomery, Lori Maser, Alison Bents, Jamey Hansen