



# *Courtland-Oakfield United Methodist Church*

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Greetings in the name of Jesus the Christ, who loves each and everyone of us without reservation.

First, I want to apologize to all those who have been harmed by the actions of the General Conference this week, and are hurting. I grieve with you. I affirm your sacred worth, and I will do all I can to repair my own complicity in that harm.

This General Conference was called for one purpose; to try to resolve our differences over our biblical understanding regarding ordaining and presiding at the weddings of LGBTQIA individuals.

Last week the General Conference, in voting for the Traditional Plan, voted to maintain the current language of the Discipline which states that “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with scripture.” They also added further restrictions and punishment for violating the Discipline. The General Conference also voted to send the entire plan to the Judicial Council to have them rule on whether the plan violates our United Methodist Constitution. The Judicial Council will meet in April.

I had great hopes that the One Church Plan that was recommended by the Council of Bishops would be adopted. That plan would have allowed churches and pastors and Annual Conferences to follow the convictions of their own biblical understanding of scripture. However, those who supported the Traditional Plan worked very hard to prevent that from happening, and they succeeded.

So, now what? Now, we wait. That’s why I took a couple of days before I wrote this letter. I needed the dust and the emotions and some of the grief to clear, at least a little, before I could put words to paper. We need to hear the ruling of the Judicial Council. The Traditional plan may not be implemented. While we wait, let us be the people God calls us to be. Let us continue to reach out to those around us offering hope and hospitality, and sharing the love we have received from the triune God.

Some of you have told me you can no longer wait. I understand. Please come talk to me and I will do everything I can to support you. I am waiting yet to hear God speak to me fully about how I need to respond to this action.

I am committed to being your pastor whether or not we agree. John Wesley said, “though we may not think alike, may we not love alike?”

May God’s grace and peace guide us, fill us, and surround us as we make our way forward,

*Pastor Kim*

Pastor Kim

