

Pulse

Confessing Jesus Christ as Son, Savior and Lord!



The Wesleyan Covenant Association will hold its 2017 Global Gathering on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at The Woodlands United Methodist Church near Houston, TX. The theme of the Gathering is

“Move: On Mission With God.”

Participants will check in at 8:00 a.m. and the Gathering itself will begin at 9:00 a.m. CST and conclude at 3:00 p.m. CST.

The Gathering will also be simulcast to regional sites throughout the United States with the simulcast being shown from

10:00 AM to 4:00 p.m. EST at regional sites located in the Eastern Time Zone

10:00 AM to 4:00 p.m. MST at regional sites located in the Mountain Time Zone

9:00 AM to 3:00 p.m. PST at regional sites located in the Pacific Time Zone

Registration information will be available soon at www.wesleyancovenant.org.

August 2017

Judicial Council Denies Western Jurisdiction's Motion For Reconsideration

In a unanimous decision, the Judicial Council of the UMC denied a motion to reconsider ruling 1341 that, in part, asserted “A same-sex marriage license issued by competent civil authorities together with [a] clergy person’s status in a same-sex relationship is a public declaration that the person is a self-avowed practicing homosexual for purposes of [church law].” The Western Jurisdiction Council of Bishops unsuccessfully argued that the General Conference alone has the authority to define standards for clergy ordination. This information must now be considered in the ordination process.

Boards Continue to Defy Church Law

In 2016 seven conferences issued statements vowing their refusal to consider issues of sexuality during the ordination process. Following the April 2017 Judicial Council ruling that called on all Boards of Ordained ministry to comply with church law when considering clergy candidates for ordination, the New York and Pacific Northwest conferences reaffirmed their opposing position and intent to defy church law in the future.

Recently the Commission on a Way Forward asked for input from various UM groups. The Confessing Movement was among those invited to share our position on the future of the UMC. Below is the letter sent to the Commission:

RESPONSE TO THE COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD

Our preferred future for our denomination is the future we have been working for since we came together as a group primarily committed to doctrinal/theological renewal. We believe The United Methodist Church has defined her identity and mission, faithful to our history and in harmony with the universal church. This has not been a casual or hasty enterprise, nor has it been without ongoing responsible reexamination.

The constituency of The Confessing Movement is practicing orthodox Wesleyans who happily claim, with United Methodism's self-definition, the centrality and authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We have never sought to be anything other than what our Church says we are to be.

It is obvious that who we have said we are as a denomination is not the preferred future of a segment of the church. While that segment is a minority, it is demanding the attention and energy of the church, and the church is paralyzed as a Kingdom Movement and is unable to focus on our mission of "making disciples for the transformation of the world."

The Commission must free itself of thinking of unity in terms of the denomination if it is to accomplish its purpose to "move us beyond the impasse over the nature, conditions, and extent of the inclusion of LGBTQ people within the church." Some sort of separation in which one part of the division would guarantee LGBTQ people ordination and same-sex marriage is required.

We recognize that LGBTQ persons are as conscience bound in their demanding ordination and same sex marriage as we are in opposition. We should honor that. We must also honor the conscience of us (who we believe are a large majority of the church) who in our faithfulness to Scripture and the 2000-year tradition of the universal Christian church cannot be a part of a denomination that accepts the "practice" of homosexuality, affirms a redefinition of marriage and breaks with the church universal in practices related to human sexuality.

We pray that the Commission would stay aware of the fact that we are not the cause of schism. We are faithful to who we say we are as a denomination and we are in continuity with the apostolic teaching of the Christian church for 2000 years. Schism has already occurred, fostered by leaders and judicatories publicly calling for and openly violating the Discipline; schism is now corporately expressed in the election of a bishop in a same sex marriage. This extreme action is a deliberate act of disobedience declaring that they cannot live in a denomination with the commitments we presently have on the issues of human sexuality.

Our position on the issue is at the center of our larger orthodox understanding and commitment. In creation humans are purposefully sexed and complementary. This is a dimension of creation which is at the center of Jesus' understanding of marriage; also, upon which the social order is founded. To disavow sexual otherness obscures the image of the Church as the Bride of Christ.

It is presumptuous and disrespectful to ask us to think that Jesus was misled in his description of creation and marriage. The extremity of the LGBTQ community's insistence that we disregard our convictions and 2000 years of witness of the church and to repent of 2000 years of Biblical teaching is untenable and unacceptable.

We recognize the depth of our division as a demonization and deeply desire to honor all sides of the conversation.

If we affirm Scripture and tradition on the issues that divide us, we may live in communion but not under common governance.

Let's accept that and start the process that will eventuate in enabling them to live in an autonomous body, where they can exercise their calling and live freely in accord with their convictions. Our constituency cannot live in a denomination where that distinction is not clearly made and ordered accordingly.

Contact Us

The Confessing Movement
7995 E 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 356-9729
cm@confessingumc.org

Visit us on the web:
www.confessingumc.org