

Pulse



*Confessing Jesus Christ as
Son, Savior and Lord!*

Commission on a Way Forward

By Pat Miller

As a member of the Council of Bishops' Commission on a Way Forward, I participated in an introductory conference call earlier this month. We spent the time sharing with one another our hearts for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and for the people and the institution of The United Methodist Church. Our first face to face meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia in January 2017. I will share any information I can as it becomes available. You can also visit the Commission website for updates at:

www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward.

Please continue to pray for all those involved that our conversations are fruitful, loving, and most important,

A JUST RESOLUTION?

As one of his first acts as a newly elected bishop serving the Michigan Episcopal Area, Bishop David Bard approved a "just resolution" in response to charges filed against Rev. Michael J. Tupper for officiating at a same-gender wedding on July 17, 2015. This was Rev. Tupper's second time to be charged with this offense. The resolution states that the Council of Bishops' recommendation at General Conference 2016 regarding a Commission on A Way Forward "encouraged [them] 'to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another.'" The quote comes from a statement by the bishops that reads "We will continue to explore options to help the church live in grace with one another - including ways to avoid further complaints, trials and harm **while we uphold the *Discipline*** [emphasis added]." Ignoring

the second half of the statement allowed Bishop Bard to approve a resolution that calls for not only continued disobedience to the *Discipline*, but calls on the Michigan Area to act as a model for a new and inclusive UMC that allows churches to decide whether or not to accept gay clergy to lead their congregations. Instead of being held accountable for breaking his vows to uphold the *Discipline*, Rev. Tupper was tasked to "set up a training session for all Michigan clergy in the spring of 2017 to offer pastoral care for LGBTQI individuals who are considering marriage or ordained ministry." The resolution is seen by many as a rejection of the authority of General Conference.

December 2016

#GIVING TUESDAY

I learned of a new day that has been added to our calendar between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. A few years ago, "Black Friday" was added. In recent years the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been designated as #GivingTuesday. This is a reminder to us about the importance of giving during this season of the year. Many people will make contributions to non-profit ministries, charities, and churches. Also, people are thinking in terms of an end of the year gift.

One of the best places to give is to The Confessing Movement. This is a very critical point in history for The United Methodist Church, but it is also an organization that is engaged in ministries that will have an eternal impact.

We have two General Conferences coming up. One is a called session. This will be an extremely important session. The Confessing Movement must be prepared through our education about the issues, and the payment of expenses of the people who need to be there. This will probably occur in 2019. Then in 2020, the regular General Conference will take place.

This called session of the General Conference was not foreseen or included in any of our financial budgeting. Also, the African delegation continues to grow. The Africans have been a great force in supporting the purpose and cause of The Confessing Movement. There will soon be more African delegates than U.S. delegates. They always need help with expenses, education materials, etc.

This is a season of the year to give – The Confessing Movement is a great organization to which we can give. Whether you are considering making a first-time contribution at the end of the year or looking at a regular December gift, please consider The Confessing Movement. Your money will be well invested and will be handled with accountability.

Thanksgiving is really two words – Thanks and Giving. One of the best ways to express thanks is by giving!

Thank you for your giving!

John Ed Mathison



The Confessing Movement Board and Staff would like to wish you a very

*Blessed &
Merry Christmas!*

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ! As we celebrate his birth may we be reminded that you included the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known. May we worship you in meekness of heart remembering our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of hope.

Amen