

Pulse



Pulse is a new monthly publication from The Confessing Movement designed to keep you informed of the current state of our beloved church. Please continue to pray for renewal - particularly a renewed obedience to scripture.

Many believe that the 2016 General Conference in Portland will determine whether the UMC continues as the largest mainline Protestant denomination in the world or splinters into separate factions. We want you to be informed and prayerfully prepared to defend the classical, orthodox, Wesleyan Faith tradition.

*“Every word of **God** proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him”*

Proverbs 30:5.



Church Hiring and Religious Liberty

Does a church have the right to reflect its values in its hiring practices? This will be an issue that will be faced more and more in the future. Many Christian churches set standards for their employees. Many UM Churches would not hire persons co-habiting without benefit of marriage, or hire a secretary who has a second job as a stripper. At Aloma UM Church in Orange County, Florida, two women who taught in the church's day care program were let go when they made it known they were in a lesbian relationship. An attorney for the women says the firing violates Orange County's human rights ordinance which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. A law suit is in the works. We can only expect more situations like this one.

2014 Apportionments

The General Commission on Finance and Administration announced that 23 of 57 annual conferences paid 100% of apportionments in 2014. This is the highest number of conferences paying 100% for at least the last ten years. A total of 131 million dollars was received in general church funds, or 91% of the church's asking. In 2013 the church received 128.6 million dollars, just under 90% of the amount apportioned.

The Media and Mixed Messages

The United Methodist Church in Alexandria, Indiana, has closed its doors after controversy around whether to hire a gay choir director (Alexandria, some might recall, is the home of the Gaithers). The story that circulated through the social media, the major LGBTQ websites, the newspapers, and the national media was that a new pastor fired the choir director who is gay, 80% of the congregation who supported the choir director left, and the church closed. The story was accompanied with lots of comments about how hateful and bigoted the pastor and the district superintendent are. The other side of the story as told by the annual conference is that a man who had been choir director came out as gay and totally on his own, resigned his position. Later he and at least one strong family in the church believed he should be hired back. The church had faced declining attendance and was phasing out the position. There were some demonstrations, the key family left, and the ensuing controversy (including the national media invasion) discouraged the remaining membership to the point that it seemed best that the church close. A tragic story.

Expect to see more of these.

Get on Board the “Justice” Train

On the surface, the cultural war related to homosexuality has been won. That Indiana’s recent “religious freedom” legislative issue was so quickly turned into a “gay discrimination” issue, is a rather clear signal that all the guns will be loaded against our present position of United Methodism when we arrive in Portland in May 2016 for our General Conference.

Church and secular forces will be overwhelming us with friendly and non-friendly invitations to get on the “justice” train that has long since left the station and is going at breakneck speed. In our preparation for General Conference, we must be prepared Biblically and theologically because we can’t win the battle if we allow the debate to be simply a “justice” one. And we can’t win it if the practice of homosexuality is our only concern.

Dr. Maxie Dunnam



Do United Methodists Hold Revivals?

Of course. On the week of March 13-15 the area around the village of Mahusekwe in Zimbabwe held a three-day revival characterized by singing, healing, drums, open-air evangelism, and conversions. Mahusekwe is 90 kilometers south of Harare, the nation’s capital. A sea of about 60 men and women in procession went through the village and the surrounding area, singing, witnessing, doing door-to-door evangelism, healing the sick, and leading the lost to Christ. A tent seating 1,000 was the center of the revival. Various testimonies gave witness to the mighty power of God. *(From United Methodist News Service)*

“The most terrifying thing for Satan is to find a human being who, amid terrible torment, still intends to do God’s will. Satan is terrified by the one who in that great darkness, when he is assaulted, when he is feeling forlorn and forsaken, still obeys. That is the one Satan fears most.”

(C.S. Lewis)

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