

Pulse



Pulse is a new 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.

CONFESSING MOVEMENT REJECTS LOCAL OPTION PROPOSAL

On September 28, an anonymous United Methodist bishop offered a proposal to be considered by the renewal groups of the UMC. This proposal would remove from Paragraph 161F the statement that “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” In its place would be a statement that sincere Christians disagree on this issue. Furthermore, the proposal would offer a way that local churches could host same-gender weddings. As a trade-off for these concessions, the proposal would offer a way that a congrega-

tion could exit from the United Methodist denomination with their property.

The Board of Directors of The Confessing Movement considered this proposal and rejected it. Holy Scripture is quite clear in its disapproval of the practice of homosexuality and the definition of marriage (Matthew 19:4-6). The Confessing Movement will not compromise scriptural integrity. We agree with the Book of Discipline when it states that the Holy Bible “is the true rule and guide for faith and practice.”

DISCLOSE, DIVEST, DISRUPT

Recently a GATHER AT THE RIVER CONFERENCE was held in San Antonio, Texas, sponsored by Reconciling Ministries Network and the Methodist Federation for Social Action. Many participants were wearing shirts bearing this slogan:

DISCLOSE, DIVEST, DISRUPT.

This motto summarizes what can be expected from liberal United Methodists at the 2016 General Conference. One of the speakers, Bishop Minerva Carcaño, declared it was time for the church to catch up with society, our sister mainline churches, and God. In a plenary session, Amy DeLong of LOVE PREVAILS made it clear that liberal expectations at General Conference should be low. “If you are hopeful, I am here to rid you of that burden. We get trounced.” She acknowledged the reality that the votes were simply not there to change the UMC’s governing Book of Discipline and remove restrictions against homosexual practice. She told the crowd that democratic change was closed to them; they had nothing to lose, and called for “new and disruptive tactics.”

The Confessing Movement mourns the attitude and practice suggested, but we celebrate the conviction that the General Conference will hold to our commitment to our Biblical understanding of marriage and homosexual practice. Pray that civility will prevail at General Conference and we will engage as Christians in seeking the unity of the church.

November 2015

A Statement by the College of African Bishops of the UMC

Please join us and other United Methodists in praying and fasting for the UMC and the 2016 General Conference.



"...We are deeply saddened that the Holy Bible, our primary authority for faith and the practice of Christian living, and our Book of Discipline are being grossly ignored by some members and leaders of our Church in favor of social and cultural practices that have no scriptural basis for acceptance in Christian worship and conduct. Yet they continue to attempt to persuade members of the Church to incorporate these practices as an accepted code of conduct within global United Methodism."

The above statement was crafted at the conclusion of the African Bishops' annual meeting in Zimbabwe September 7-11, 2015. The full statement addressed many concerns for the future of the UMC including global terrorism, maintaining the unity of the church, and marriage and sexuality. They made the following statement regarding marriage:

"We submit to the teachings of Scripture that God designed marriage to be between man and woman, and the procreation of children is a blessing from God (Gen. 2:24-25; Psalm 127:3-5). Scripture also teaches that all persons are sexual beings, whether or not they are married. However, sexual relations are affirmed only within the covenant bond of a faithful monogamous, heterosexual marriage, and not within same-sex unions or polygamy."

The entire statement can be found on our website at www.confessingumc.org.

STATEMENT SIGNERS INCLUDE:

Bishop John G. Innis
Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntambo
Bishop Wesley Yohanna
Bishop Gabriel Unda
Bishop Domingos, Gaspar Joao
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