

# THE HEART BEAT

SERVING PEOPLE FROM THE HEART OF SILVERDALE

*Serving Jesus, Loving people, living His Word*

Silverdale United Methodist Church : Newsletter : Volume 3 : Issue 11 : November 2018

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## upcoming EVENTS

November

November 3—WCA Event

November 4—Daylight Savings Ends

November 7—Trustees

November 9—Senior Saints

November 12—Veteran's Day Observed  
(OFFICE CLOSED)

November 14—Finance


November 17—Silverdale United Christmas  
Market

November 20—Thanksgiving Service

November 22—Thanksgiving Day (OFFICE  
CLOSED)

November 23—Day After Thanksgiving  
(OFFICE CLOSED)

November 30—CK Food Backpacks 4 Kids  
Craft show (set up)

 The HEARTBEAT is a monthly publication of  
SUMC. The next deadline will be **Nov 26th**

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## THE CONFESSING MOVEMENT

WITHIN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Jesus: Son, Savior and Lord*

The General Conference meeting in February of 2019, will be offered three options submitted by the Commission on a Way Forward to help direct the church in the coming years. Other options are coming from petitions presented by individuals or groups with more ideas. The ones that are known to us at the moment will follow.

The three options offered for consideration by the Commission do give insight into possibilities for the church. Briefly summarized (each one will be dealt with more completely in other articles in the newsletter) these are as follows:

### **1. THE TRADITIONAL MODEL**

Keep the same *Discipline* statements regarding human sexuality as are in the *Discipline* currently. However, since bishops, conferences, boards of ministry and churches are presently in open defiance of the *Discipline* as it now stands, close the loopholes and tighten the accountability sections of the *Discipline*.

### **2. THE CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCE PLAN**

Divide into three separate branches of United Methodism and let each branch adopt their own *Discipline*, select their own bishops, adopt their own criteria for ordination and set its own standards for human sexuality. This option would necessitate several constitutional amendments.

### **3. THE ONE CHURCH MODEL**

Reverse the church's historic teaching in regard to human sexuality. Remove all references to homosexuality and to marriage as between a man and a woman. Let individuals, churches, and conferences decide for themselves what standards they wish to follow. Build in assurances that the convictions of traditionalists will be honored.

## 1. THE TRADITIONAL MODEL

For many in the church there is dismay as to why we are even having this debate. Is not the Bible clear about the place of the woman and man in God's creation? Has not the Church always stressed the importance of sexual purity and the importance of the family? The Traditional Plan basically reaffirms what the church has always taught.

What is added would be provisions for a gracious exit for any who feel they can no longer live under the church's teaching that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and prohibits same sex weddings and ordination of practicing homosexuals. Churches leaving would be able to keep their property.

For those who do not wish to take advantage of gracious exit and for the rest of the church, legislation would be added which would further define the term "practicing homosexual" as a person living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union. Annual conferences and bishops would be required to indicate if they would or would not enforce the *Discipline* regarding these issues.

Furthermore, bishops could not dismiss a complaint unless there are not grounds and Annual Conferences and congregations could continue in the pension program.

►An additional petition has been submitted as an amendment to the Traditional Plan to guide the implementation of gracious accountability. The petition would offer changes to the *Discipline* that would allow local churches or annual conferences to form or join self-governing churches if they do not desire to support and uphold the UMC standards for accountability. This petition requires the church to uphold Biblical standards in regard to homosexual practice and marriage. Annual conferences would be required to hold votes to determine if a conference is willing or not willing to uphold the *Discipline*. Churches or clergy whose consciences are in conflict with the annual conference decision would be encouraged to transfer to another self-governing church. The petition also offers the procedures by which this legislation can be effectively implemented by adding several enforcement procedures.

►Another petition to amend the Traditional Plan was filed that proposes a new Global Episcopacy Committee that would replace the present Interjurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The committee would help facilitate transfers of bishops across jurisdictional or central conference lines. It would administer the complaint process of complaints filed against bishops who have not upheld the *Discipline*. It would also monitor developments in the church that might call for a reorganization of jurisdictional or central conferences.

►A petition has also been filed with the Judicial Council that the Traditional Plan as submitted by the Commission on the Way Forward is unconstitutional. The Judicial Council is expected to rule on this and other petitions at their October 2018 meeting.

## WHAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN?

It is most unfortunate that restrictive accountability measures need to be added to the *Discipline*. Our present crisis is caused not by unbiblical teaching but by those who took vows that they affirmed the church's doctrine and behavioral standards and then deliberately and consciously violated those vows. For many of us this was a breach of integrity. Furthermore, persons (including bishops) have indicated they would not uphold the *Discipline*. So, the crisis. The church is already in schism – separated within the church due to conflicting beliefs. The church cannot function without commonly held values and without trust. So, the choice. Succumb to the rebellion by compromising the church's historic beliefs on one hand or uphold the church's historic standards. This action would be impossible without added accountability.

The Traditional Plan was first delineated by the Commission on the Way Forward. It is no secret that a majority of the bishops at the present so oppose the Traditional Plan that originally they rejected the Commission's recommendation to present the plan even as an option. However, the Judicial Council ruled it is the Commission who is to submit the report, not the Council of Bishops. The Commission chose to submit all three plans.

## 2. THE CONNECTIONAL CONFERENCE PLAN

In this plan the five U.S. Jurisdictional Conferences by geography would be replaced by three Connectional Conferences, each covering the whole country, based on traditional or progressive theology. Each Connectional Conference would create its own Book of Discipline carrying Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith, the General Rules and other items agreed upon by United Methodists. Each annual conference would decide with which Connectional Conference it chooses to align. A local church could choose to be in a conference other than the conference with which their annual conference aligns and clergy could identify with a particular conference or make themselves available for more than one conference. A central conference (those outside the U.S.) can exist as its own Connectional Conference or it can choose to align with a U.S. Connectional Conference. All the Connectional Conferences would continue to support ministries and mission outside the U.S.

Each Connectional Conference elects and pay for its own bishops. This does not include bishops outside the U.S. who would be supported by all U.S. annual conferences. Wespath, Publishing House, GCFA, Archives & History and parts of GBGM would continue. There would, however, be some re-alignment of other general boards and agencies, possibly operating somewhat independently and contracting on a fee-basis for services. The Judicial Council would consist of two personas elected by each Connectional Conference and would serve as the supreme judicial body for all matters in the several Books of Discipline.

A Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences would be established by the 2020 General Conference to help the Council of Bishops facilitate cooperative ministry between the newly formed Connectional Conferences. Legislation for this would be written by a Transitional Team and Submitted for 2020 General Conference. This team would consist of approximately 30 members, including a project manager and other paid staff or contracted services. This group would be responsible for overseeing and administering the transition process through General Conference 2022.

#### **WHAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN?**

This plan would allow for realignment on the basis of theology and mission. For evangelicals, for example, it would be encouraging to be able to relate to like-minded churches who share common values and beliefs. Progressive churches in the evangelical conference could choose to relate to a Connectional Conference more sympathetic to their beliefs and values.

Most importantly it would offer an opportunity for the general church to restructure its boards and agencies and repurpose the seminaries. At the moment it seems that the boards and agencies and the seminaries act as if the local churches serve them instead of they serving the local church. In this plan churches would have some freedom in determining how boards and agencies can best serve them. Annual conferences might be able to have influence in how seminaries can best train for ministry. Different conferences could focus their ministry on groups they feel called to serve. If the progressive conference wants different ministries for LGBTQ persons they would be able to create those ministries. For those who believe the United Methodist Church is in a rut, this plan offers the possibility for a New Thing.

#### **WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN**

The commission on the Way Forward knew this plan would require at least 8 constitutional amendments and that there could be more depending on the Judicial Council ruling. If it should pass in 2019, it would require an aggregate 2/3 vote of all United Methodists and then can be considered again by the 2020 General Conference.

### **3. THE ONE CHURCH PLAN**

The One Church Plan is a variation on legislation that has been rejected several times at General Conferences often referred to as the local option. This plan, however, goes much further than the legislation that has failed before. The One Church Plan that will be presented to the 2019 General Conference asserts that the UMC is not of one mind on matters of homosexual practice and, therefore, proposes the following

►Removal of all language from the Discipline that restricts pastors and churches from conducting same-sex weddings and annual conferences from ordaining self-avowed practicing homosexual persons. Language is added to affirm that no annual conference, bishop, congregation or pastor is compelled to act contrary to their convictions.

►Creates a moral equivalency between Christian marriage and same sex marriage, thus redefining Christian marriage.

►Ends the threat of church trials over same-sex weddings.

►Maintains the leadership structure of the UMC including the Council of Bishops, General Conferences and annual conferences as one body and one church.

The Plan argues that this would allow the church to stay together. The church would be united by heritage and doctrine and values and by mission. Some believe sexual morality is not an important enough issue that it should keep us from being united. Specifically, the appeal is that we must do anything we can to avoid division.

#### **WHAT CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN**

If adopted this Plan would violate Scripture, 2,000 years of Christian tradition, and all who have sought to uphold Wesleyan standards, doctrine, values, and practices since the beginning of Methodism. It basically places United Methodism outside the Christian tradition and its teaching about marriage that has existed since New Testament days. Some would argue it would make the United Methodist Church an apostate church.

Supporters of the plan argue that churches can continue their ministry and mission without disruption and would not have to vote on anything. This is fantasy thinking. Local churches, clusters, conferences, and various ministries will face issues inevitably relating to homosexual practice and marriage and there will be more, not less disruption in the church. Conflict once associated with General Conference will be brought to the local church. Instead of keeping unity with Plan would further divide the church. Many churches even now speak of leaving the denomination. The Confessing Movement, along with other evangelical renewal groups, urge these churches to stay faithful to the denomination because our stated doctrines and values affirm historic Christian truth. United Methodism is too valuable to abandon. If the Plan is adopted it will be impossible to continue to make that argument.

What is discouraging is that a majority of the bishops along with most of our seminaries and most of our boards and agencies, are out of touch with the rank and file of United Methodism that they believe this Plan would be supported and that it might keep the church united. The Confessing Movement and other renewal movements make the point that evangelical United Methodism, while usually underrepresented in the councils of the church, is the perspective of choice for the majority of United Methodists.

#### **WHAT FURTHER CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN?**

It won't pass. While it reflects the liberal bias of many bishops, many seminaries, many official institutional boards and agencies, the liberal caucuses, and the wellfunded and politically aggressive LGBTQ advocates, it is too much outside Christian tradition to be adopted.

#### **WHAT FURTHER CAN BE SAID ABOUT THIS PLAN?**

A petition being filed will argue before the church's Judicial Council that several provisions, namely the very provisions that seek to protect the consciences of those who stand for Biblical morality, are unconstitutional.

# Sunday School NEWS

Here's what our Sunday school children learned about in this past month of October:

We had classes for preschool and kindergarten children in room 105, and for grades 1 – 5 in room 201. Both classes have been using a curriculum from Group Publishing House called "Dig IN" that we can customize to our own needs and print ourselves. Both classes were using similar material, but the teachers were able to adjust it for the appropriate grade levels and needs of the children. They were also able to send home a lesson summary and weekly family activity paper that included the Bible passage and our focus verse. Please check for this paper to come home with your Sunday school child or children whenever they are doing the Dig IN lessons.

The children learned that God revealed Himself as "I AM" to Moses, and then God commissioned Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt to the promised land. They learned about some of the events on the journey to the promised land that revealed more of God. Through the lessons they've learned that God is "unchanging", "holy", "all-powerful", "always faithful", "always compassionate and good", and "completely trustworthy". Children learned that just as God has a faithful, good, holy, and compassionate nature, so also through faith in Jesus Christ and the power of Holy Spirit we are enabled to live good, compassionate, loving, forgiving, and faithful lives that are loyal to Christ and to others.

In November, both classes will join together in practicing to present seven mini-plays and music for the all-church Christmas dinner on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Through this they will begin to learn how God prepared His people for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Look for any other information about costumes and practice times from Mary Eyer and Gloria Lee this month.



The Severe Weather Shelter is now open as of November 1st during Severe Weather. Some members have asked what we need for the shelter: We have a hot pot and can use hot chocolate & apple cider packets, instant coffee, creamer & sugar, and any instant soups. Sleeping bags, sweat pants, jeans, shoes, hats or gloves are always needed. Thank you!



Our Shoebox Packing Party was a huge success! We filled 1,201 Shoeboxes last Sunday! Our Community came together and volunteered, donated items, came to pack and pray over the shoeboxes to spread the Hope and Love of Jesus to the ends of the earth! Our goal was 1,000. We packed 686 shoeboxes last year. Thank you to all who donated supplies, their energy, and prayers for these children. Over 1,100 pencils bags were sewn with Love and donated. Thank you to SUMC for making this possible! Many hands make light work! We give God all the glory and praise his name! Rick and Gloria Lee



**SILVERDALE UNITED CHRISTMAS MARKET** is coming Saturday, November 17 from 9-4. There will be 30 vendors along with the Twice Loved area sponsored by Missions Committee. A soup, sandwich, and pie lunch is also available for purchase. Help us get the word out to your family and friends by taking some flyers and posting it on your Facebook. Thanks! We are also looking for Baked Goods donations for the Bake Sale table at the Silverdale Market. All proceeds from it will go to support our Haiti Mission. Please bring to the gym on Friday Nov 16 or Saturday Nov 17 (Early Morning) Questions? Call Gloria Lee 360-509-9105



## Member DIRECTORY

We will be working on a directory IN-HOUSE!  
 Everyone **MUST** send in your **contact information** or updated information to be placed in the directory. If you do not confirm or update your information you will **NOT** be added into the directory. Email, drop a note or stop by with your information. If you would like to have an updated **picture** or PLEASE send one in OR stop into the office ready to have your picture taken. Kerri is shooting to have a new directory out by the end of January 2019 which means all pictures and contact information need to be in by **NOVEMBER 30, 2018!**



Join your SUMC friends for a celebration of Christ's birth on Sunday, December 9 after the Worship Service. Enjoy Christmas dinner and fellowship, along with a Christmas play by our children. Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, and beverages are provided. If you are able, please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Please consider:

Inviting friends and family to join you at the dinner—these guests do not need to bring a food.

Helping with set-up and/or cooking on Sat., Dec. 8 between 9 a.m. and noon

Helping with clean-up on Dec. 9 right after the event

Sign-ups for helping will be in the Social Hall during fellowship time starting Nov. 18, or contact Chris Wyatt at 360-620-0607 or [cusatenko@gmail.com](mailto:cusatenko@gmail.com)



September: 359

October: 643



### All Church Christmas Decorating Party

Come join us Saturday, Dec. 1, 10:00 am to noon to help decorate the sanctuary and social hall for Christmas. Families are encouraged to attend with children as we will have an ornament making table. Refreshments will be provided. Hope you will join us for fun and fellowship!



### Help Christmas come alive through the Live Nativity

Join us in sharing the story of Christ's birth through the SUMC Live Nativity on Friday, December 21, Saturday, December 22, and Sunday, December 23, 5:30-7:00 p.m. This is a community outreach evangelism opportunity. There are lots of ways that you can be involved...play the role of a Wiseman, shepherd, Mary or Joseph (we also have opportunities for children to be angels); greet people and give out flyers with an invitation to SUMC; donate cookies, apple cider or hot cocoa; serve refreshments; help with the children's craft table; help with costumes; set-up and take down the nativity structure. Set-up for Live Nativity will be Saturday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. Take down will be Saturday, Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. Sign-up in the Social Hall after Sunday worship service starting Sunday, November 18.



September: 24

October: 9

# NOVEMBER 2018

FOOD BANK OPEN THURSDAYS 11-1PM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon Praise team	2 Chuckwagon	3 WCA Event
4 Daylight Savings Widows/widowers group	5 Staff Meeting 9:30 HGC Food Prep NA—SH 6pm Wyatt Bible study Bible Study Men's Group	6 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon HGC	7 Men's Bible Study TOPS Prayer Art Class AI—Anon Trustees	8 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon Praise team ALS group	9 Senior Saints Chuckwagon	10 NA Couples Group Hunt Event
11 Veteran's Day	12 Veteran's Day observed <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	13 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon HGC	14 Men's Bible Study TOPS Prayer Art Class Finance	15 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon Praise team	16 Chuckwagon Coffee Oasis SU Christmas Market set up	17 Silverdale United Christmas Market
18 Widows/widowers group	19 Staff meeting 9:30 HGC Food Prep NA -SH Wyatt Bible Study Bible Study Men's Group	20 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon HGC THANKSGIVING SERVICE	21 MBS TOPS Prayer Art Class	22 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	23 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	24 NA Couples Group
25	26 Staff meeting 9:30 HGC Food Prep NA -SH Wyatt Bible Study Bible Study Men's Group	27 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon 11am HGC 4-5pm	28 Men's Bible Study TOPS Prayer Art Class	29 Women's Bible Study Chuckwagon Praise Team CK Food Backpacks 4 kids set up	30 Chuckwagon CK Food Backpacks 4 kids craft fair	1