

A note from the Pastor...

Below is a statement read at church on May 5th.

Friends, I want to give you a statement to what happened at General Conference this week. After years of intensive and prayerful debate, the General Conference delegates from all over the world voted to remove language that prohibited United Methodist clergy from performing weddings for same-gender couples. This change allows churches and clergy to operate according to their conscience, without consequence.

The delegates of the General Conference also voted to remove prohibitions that prevented a Board of Ordained Ministry from recommending a gay or lesbian person for ordination. Please be assured that the Bishop and Cabinet will continue to work with churches and clergy to ensure the best match possible when making appointments. The mission is to have a vital ministry, not a ministry defined by conflict.

I know that different people have different opinions on these matters and the diversity of perspectives needs to be respected, but I want to reassure you that our ministry remains unchanged. We will continue to be the church as we welcome and embrace all members of our community. We will continue to show compassion, ensuring that every person who walks through our doors feels valued, respected, and supported. We will continue to live out the Gospel as we minister and bring others to the love of Jesus Christ.

Let us remember that our strength lies in our unity. As we collaborate and work together, I feel sure that we can navigate the complexity and respect one another. Please know that my door is always open to anyone who wishes to discuss these matters further or seek guidance and support. Let us lean on one another and on God's grace as we journey forward together.

Love you all, Justin