



Good Shepherd

United Methodist Church

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The
United Methodist Church
may split over
LGBTQ inclusion.

A WAY FORWARD – That's what the Commission studying human sexuality's impact on the future of the United Methodist Church is called. Proposed by the Council of Bishops and created by the 2016 General Conference, the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward is charged with doing a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

This work centers on three areas of conflict amid the present impasse related to LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer) inclusion and language in the UMC Book of Discipline.

- *The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.* (p. 61.G)
- *Self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve.* (p. 304.3)
- *Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.* (p. 341.6)

Why is this so critically important to members of Good Shepherd? Our Bishop who serves the Mountain Sky area is the first openly gay bishop to be elected in the United Methodist Church, despite guidelines stated in the Book of Discipline. Bishop Karen Oliveto is lesbian and has been married to her wife Robin for 10 years. Other denominations that have wrestled with LGBTQ inclusion have split and many believe the same future awaits the United Methodist Church.

As your pastor, I am keeping myself educated on what is happening with the Way Forward so I can adequately answer your questions. I know there are many devoted church members who do not care about decisions made at the General Conference level. I also accept that for some, the topic of homosexuality is just too sensitive to discuss. But for those who want to know more and need to share in level headed Christian dialogue, I am available. I will be guiding conversations on all positions dealing with this complicated denominational issue with the Insights Sunday school class sometime after the new year.



The Commission on a Way Forward will finalize a report for the Council of Bishops by April 2018. Rocky Mountain Conference leaders are expected to dialogue on the report in June 2018. The General Conference will hopefully debate and make decisions that will lead the denomination forward into the future during a special session to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. Serving Christ is an adventure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian".



CHILDREN, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 24 at 6:30 P.M.



For some people the holidays are **NOT joyful**.

They are lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations. They experience depression and sadness. And it is very hard to “put on a happy face” for others.

A Blue Christmas service is for people who have lost loved ones and can not “celebrate” but long to find meaning and hope in the birth of Jesus Christ.

It’s been a difficult year for so many people. Loss of loved ones, loss of jobs and security. Invite someone you know and bring them to our Blue Christmas service Saturday, December 23 at 6:30 pm.

Good Shepherd Hosts Church/Charge Conference for Circuit of Nine Churches December 3

Mile High/Pikes Peak District Superintendent Rev. Tezenlo Thong, PhD is calling a Circuit Charge Conference for the South Pikes Peak Circuit to be held at Good Shepherd UMC in Colorado Springs on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 3 p.m. The Circuit includes nine churches: Good Shepherd, Mountain View in Woodland Park, People’s, Stratmoor Hills, First Fountain, Ellicott, Simla, Calhan, and Rush. This is the first time local churches have held their yearly meetings in a circuit format. Each church is responsible for the approval of documents prior to the December gathering. **Good Shepherd business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28 at 7 p.m.** All members are invited to attend the meeting when the 2018 budget, the pastor’s pay package and a slate of church leaders for 2018 will be approved.

EVERYBODY LOVES CHRISTMAS GOODIES



There’s something special about homemade goodies during the holidays. They just seem to say, “You’re special, and I love you.” Come and stock up on Santa’s favorite treat at the UMW cookie walk and goodie sale on December 17 in Cooper Hall right after worship service.

Grandma’s never-fail fudge, red-sprinkled sugary shapes, chocolate-dipped pretzels, and icing-decorated treats that have been baked every Christmas for generations will all be offered for your holiday enjoyment.

Pick out the ones your family enjoys, and remember also that home-baked goods make welcome gifts. See you on December 17. Your sweet tooth will be happy. *Mary Ann Tabor*

Email From The Jeff & Elizabeth Pino Perry Family

Greetings from Moyo, Uganda!

Some *sad* news. The political situation in Yei, South Sudan has not been showing much improvement. The roads are still not open. In the midst of these challenges, we have been in discussion with *Harvesters Reaching the Nations*, the ministry with whom we have served since 2007. Over the years that *His House of Hope - Bet Eman Teaching Hospital* was open, the Board became increasingly uncomfortable with the growth of the hospital and its focus on teaching medical staff. During the pause in services brought on by the civil war, we felt it was critical to be on the same page for an eventual return. If we were to return to open the hospital again, it would be a huge challenge and we would need the backing of the Board. So, we asked them to decide if they wanted to have us continue to lead HHH, if they wanted to allow another entity to carry it on in the direction we sensed God taking it, or if we should part ways. They decided that they did not want me (Jeff) to continue as Medical Director, thus ending our ten years with Harvesters.

So, we are *not* returning to South Sudan. We are saddened that this end came without much discussion with those that made the decision, but also **grateful** for the clear release that God has provided through this. It is like a death— a decade of our lives suddenly over. For most of our children, it has been all they have known. They have always been a part of His House of Hope and Harvesters. They are grieving the loss of potential return to our home, their friends, and our work in Yei.

Yet, we see the Lord opening up new ministry in Moyo, a new phase of life in our family, and bringing a great time of growth in Him— for this we **give thanks**, even amidst our *sadness*. It has been a true joy to see our family thrive in a very different missional context. Mercifully, the Lord has continued to allow us to work alongside South Sudanese— and even continue the training of some we have been a part of training in Yei. Though the working out of Jesus' call is looking different than *our* plans and hopes, this season has already been a space of re-establishing our Hope in Jesus alone. He enables us to walk in obedience— *that* is our call. **He** is our vision. *Nothing* is wasted.

To clarify, we are still with [Pioneers](#), our sending agency, just as we always have been. We are still sent by our faithful home church, **West Side Bible Church**, through **Pioneers**, only now to serve South Sudanese refugees in Moyo District with **Medical Teams International (MTI)**.



Dr. Jeff Perry working in Health Center in the refugee camps of Uganda.

What is the ADVANCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

It is the way for local churches to reach out globally and locally in support of MISSION PROJECTS.

Through the ADVANCE, our congregation has been in a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP since 2011 with the CLINTON INDIAN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTER at Clinton, Oklahoma. It's director is Rev. Donna Pewo, and she reaches out to Arapaho and Cheyenne children and youth.

Rev. Pewo writes to us, "What a year it has been for me at the CICC... I have been blessed connecting with some amazing people. It has been a year of challenge and looking to God for guidance and wisdom. We ask for your prayers as we journey on in this season of giving..The children and youth of CICC are blessed by your giving of time, service, financial support, and love you so freely offer to make sure these young people have a bright future!"

We are one of several United Methodist Churches who have a COVENANT RELATIONSHIP with the CICC in Clinton, Oklahoma. Our church's budget includes this financial support and is based on \$5.00 per member of the church.

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church – December, 2017

A portion of our support is being supplied in 2017 by Good Shepherd United Methodist Women because this is a significant part of what UMW is all about. We support nationally and internationally programs that are mission related, especially for women and children. Your support as a congregation is vital as you help fund our Mission Projects and our UMW offers thanks. *Mary Humphreys*, Missions Chair and *Elaine Johnsen*, UMW

The Story Behind “The First Noel”



Like so many other Christmas songs “The First Noel” has mysterious beginnings in either France or England. It was a folk song that was written by and for the peasants hundreds of years ago. By the 19th century it made its way into the church, where so many of the carols that we sing today were banned and frowned upon, and became mainstream and popular.

“The First Noel” is one of the few surviving early Christmas standards that can genuinely be earmarked as a folk song. Whoever was responsible for writing this carol was obviously incredibly enthusiastic about Christmas and fully understood the wonder of Christ’s birth, but didn’t have a full grasp on the Scriptures that told the story of that birth. During the Middle Ages, this was often the rule rather than the exception. When “The First Noel” was written, there were very few Bibles in circulation. Most were either in churches or monasteries and were written in Latin. Common people rarely saw a Bible in person, and even if they would have, they probably wouldn’t have been able to read the words in the sacred book, since most people living in those times were illiterate.

This was probably the case with the composer of “The First Noel.” With no ready Bible to guide him, the writer drew from the stories he had been told about the events of Christ’s birth. Most he recounted accurately, but he erred when he depicted the shepherds following the star to Christ’s birthplace. The Bible does not mention the star with the shepherds, only with the wise men.

During the middle ages the Viking custom of the Yule log became commonplace in England. It was basically the trunk of a tree that was hollowed out and filled with various spices and lit in the fireplace every year for good luck. Christians “baptized” this custom by reinterpreting the symbols from a biblical perspective.

In England, “The First Noel” was sung each year by many peasants as they lit the Yule log. Therefore, this became the song that started the entire Christmas season. Especially for children, this carol meant the beginning of the most wonderful time of the year. Down through the ages, the tradition of the Yule log carried with it the music of this folk carol. Though its words and music were not written down, “The First Noel” survived...

“The First Noel” finally was published by William Sandys in 1833. A lawyer by trade, Sandys loved music and spent his spare time collecting both French and English folk songs. In his book on Christmas folk songs he included “The First Noel.” Already a favorite with the peasant class, by the mid-1800s, when the Church of England began to use new songs during services, “The First Noel” found universal acclaim. One other thing I wanted to mention about the song is the meaning of Noel. I imagine most people don’t know it and have often wondered. It simply means “Christmas” and, unfortunately, I have no interesting story to mention about its origins.

Thank You

Thank you dear Good Shepherd friends, for you prayers, well-wishes, and kind thoughts for me during my recent surgery and also the loss of a friend, who died at my house. You have wrapped me in tender care. Thank you so much for being who you are—dear friends in Christ. *Mary Ann Tabor*

Worship Schedule 2017

December 3 ADVENT I – A Child Born of Hope
Lighting of the Advent Candle

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December 10	ADVENT II - A Child Born of Peace Lighting of the Advent Candles
December 17	ADVENT III – CHRISTMAS CANTATA Lighting of the Advent Candles
December 23	BLUE CHRISTMAS service at 6:30 pm
December 24	9:30 a.m. ADVENT IV - A Child Born of Love Lighting of the Advent Candles 6:30 pm. CHRISTMAS EVE Children, Communion and Candlelight service (There will not be a devotion.)
December 31	A Child Born of Joy

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Terry Clayton	4
Erin Stock	9
Elaine Johnsen	10
Shelby Randsell	10
Kim Davis	11
Ken Vossler	11
Belinda Jensen	15
Lori Lang	15
Melba Williams	16
Betsy Tuttle	17
Rena Emrick	18
Wilbur Olsen	19
Chad Andrews	22
Renee Young	23
Betty Riley	25
Joyce Nicholson	26
Rob and Sherri Rohren	27
Stephanie Krick	30
Frank and Amanda Cribbett	30

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Alma Arnold, Candy Hatton, Lorraine Helminski, Vera Hinshaw, Irene Lambert, Tamara Olsen, Conner Peck, Letha Phillips, Marketa Protzy, Terilynn Russ, Carrington Seay, Keith Simpson, Vanda Skadden, John and Pat Smith, Nancy Waller

Short Term Prayer Concerns

The Hiten Family, The Rose-Zamora Family, The Wilkinson Family, Kayla Hogan, The Robert Hart Family, Donna Mayer, The Ann Lantz Family, Jeff Zentz, Natalie Lang, Helen Cozzie, Charlie and Betty Riley, Jolene, The Brixey Family, Christa, Virginia, Taylor Santos and all her children, Christy Sadler, Joey Morano, Christopher Fern, The Family of Bella Ritch, The Barksdale Family, Lori Lang, The Mary Hill Family, Mary Ann Tabor, Doris Hogue, Jesse Jaramillo, Jerrie Nix, The Howard Lanier Family, The Hogan Family, Hayley Langdon, "Shelby", "Isiah", The Robert Dillard Family, David Capek, Rodney Nicholson, Robin Gilham, Joe Medina, The vanTuil Family, Josh Hodges, Eden Young

Loved Ones

The Alvin Mathias Family, The Jean Martell Family, The Jim Mariner Family, The Moli Mao Family

STAFF

Ministers.....	Members of the Congregation
Senior Pastor.....	Pastor Terilynn Russ
Office Manager.....	Loraine Scoman
Treasurer.....	Lindsay Langdon
Director of Music Ministries.....	Jennifer Montgomery
Accompanist.....	Julie Seibert

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church – December, 2017

Nursery Attendants.....Marjorie vanTuil
Susanne Simpson
Lay Leaders.....Rob Rohren
A.J. Johnsen
Tami Godsey
Head Usher.....Rob Rohren

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In an Emergency, After Hours, please call Pastor Terilynn Russ at (719) 469-9929

SERVICE TIME

Sunday Morning9:30 am