



The Lighthouse

May 2019

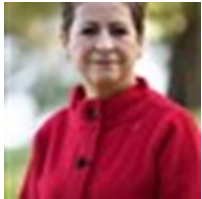
“I am with you always to the very end.”

Matthew 28:20

a note from your pastor...

... I subscribe to a number of United Methodist affiliations, so that I may be best informed; I am sharing this well written letter by Bishop Harvey, who serves the Louisiana Annual Conference. I believe that Bishop Harvey's letter provides a good synopsis of the ruling by the Judicial Council.

I share Bishop Harvey's letter so that we may continue our dialogue with one another. Some of you have asked me continuing questions about "how are we doing as United Methodists?" I appreciate your questions and I appreciate the opportunity to continue to be in conversation with you. ... What questions might you have? Pastor Mary



Bishop Cynthia Fierro
April 29, 2019

As many of you may have heard by now, the Judicial Council, (the Supreme Court of the United Methodist Church) delivered its rulings on legislation passed at the February Special Called Session of the General Conference 2019.

Portions of the Traditional Plan previously deemed unconstitutional were upheld as unconstitutional and portions previously deemed constitutional remained constitutional.

The Disaffiliation Plan that would allow churches to leave the UMC with their property was initially ruled unconstitutional, but the court reconsidered their decision and deemed it constitutional with the caveat that churches choosing to leave the denomination would only be allowed to do so once the Annual Conference session ratifies the decision.

I am encouraged with this particular action of the Judicial Council that acknowledges and reaffirms our connectional nature and that the annual conference is the basic body of the Church.

Connectionalism is an important part of our identity as United Methodists.

While some are elated with these decisions, others I know are troubled.

One important note is that the Judicial Council does not legislate but instead interprets the legislation. They are not makers of the law but interpreters of the law. Only the General Conference delegates legislate.

I am thankful for the care and discernment of the Judicial Council and respect their work and their decision. I, like many, continue to be troubled by the punitive nature of the work of the General Conference and the harm that continues to be inflicted upon LGBTQIA+ persons, their families, and allies.

While some of you will agree with me, I know others will not, and yet, I am still in ministry with you and respect your position. Our agreement on human sexuality is not the basis of our faith, ministry, or mission; the basis of our faith, ministry, and mission are in Jesus Christ.

I will continue to work to find a more just way for us to fully express our Wesleyan witness. We must honor and respect one another in Christian love even as we disagree.

I believe one of the reasons it has been so difficult to make the Traditional Plan fully constitutional is because it is not who we are. We are people of justice, grace, inclusion, reconciliation, and restoration and the Traditional Plan falls short of embracing these important tenets of our faith.

[continue on page 2 of 3]

I believe in the authority of scripture and as Wesleyan Methodists believe we interpret scripture using tradition, experience, and reason. We each bring who we are, what we have experienced, where we grew up, where we went to school to our understanding of the scriptures. To deny that is to deny the whole person of God.

"I will continue to work to find a more just way for us to fully express our Wesleyan witness.

We must honor and respect one another in Christian love even as we disagree."

I must also remind us of who we say we are as Louisiana United Methodists...

[The mission of the Louisiana Annual Conference](#) is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We have said that we are compelled by Christ's love, we the people, lay and clergy leaders of the Louisiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are:

- Leading others into an abundant life in Christ.
- Engaging with our surrounding communities locally and globally in significant ways.
- Learning, living and telling the gospel story to the nations.
- Reaching out and drawing in people from all walks of life resulting in vibrant, alive and vital congregations.

We have embraced our core values and have said that in order to live into our vision for our preferred future, we will live and lead with:

Integrity

- We will describe honestly what we see with grace and compassion.
- We will be guided and directed by missional purposes.
- We will be forthright and transparent in all that we do.

Accountability

- We will measure our actions and decisions by their connection to our mission.
- We will be accountable to each other for this connection to purpose.

Unrelenting Love for All People

- We will place the needs and interests of people before the needs and interests of the institution.
- We will prioritize transformative relationships over sustaining buildings and budgets.

Courage and Risk

- We believe that new times call for new actions.
- We are willing to trust ourselves and each other, and risk acting in new and courageous ways in order to transform a dying institution into a vibrant movement of faith and action.

Holding Nothing Sacred But The Mission

- We will be open to the creative movement of God's spirit, not institutional priorities, in order to serve the mission. While I am grateful for the commitment and work of the delegates of General Conference 2019, neither their actions nor the actions of the Judicial Council will deter us from our mission.

Disciples (perhaps thankfully) are not made at General Conference or at the Judicial Council table but are being made in your churches day after day.

Below, you will find an overview of the decisions of the Judicial Council although I would urge you to read the [full decisions](#) for yourself.

The Traditional Plan

*The Judicial Council ruled **constitutional** ...*

- an expanded definition of "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" to include anyone in a same-sex marriage or who publicly states that he or she is a practicing homosexual,"
- that District and Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry cannot recommend LGBTQ persons for ministry and that the bishop cannot commission or ordain them,
- that bishops cannot consecrate duly elected persons to the episcopacy if they are "self-avowed, practicing homosexual,"
- mandatory penalties (one-year suspension for the first offense and termination for the second offense) for clergy who are convicted by a jury of peers for performing a same-sex marriage,

[continue on page 3 of 3]

- the complaint process to include a “statement of harms” and “every effort to be made” to include the complainant in the resolution, and
- the church’s ability to appeal the verdict of a trial court to the committee on appeals and then the Judicial Council in cases of “egregious errors of Church law or administration.”

The Disaffiliation Plan

The disaffiliation petition was ruled constitutional with the reminder that the requirements include the annual conference vote, which is stated elsewhere in the Book of Discipline.

The Disaffiliation Petition...

- focuses on “the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality,”
- and provides “a local church...limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate” with the church property. The standards for disaffiliation shall be developed by the General Board of Finance and Administration. The terms and conditions for disaffiliation shall be established by the Annual Conference Board of Trustees with the advice from the Cabinet, the Annual Conference Treasurer and Benefits Officer, the Director of Connectional Ministries and the Annual Conference Chancellor. The petition delineates the requirements to disaffiliate, including a 2/3rds vote of professing members present and voting at a charge conference, 24 months of apportionment payments, “other liabilities” (which may include past health and property insurance and unpaid pension payments, and timelines for decision making).

You can find other descriptions and interpretations through [United Methodist News Service](#) as well as a [synopsis](#) borrowed from the New Jersey Conference.

We will continue to bring further definition to these decisions and determine their direct impact on our Conference, on you and your church.

In the meantime, I give thanks for each of you and for your love and commitment to the United Methodist Church, to the communities you so diligently serve and for helping to multiply the United Methodist witness in as many places as possible in the world as possible.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry, as you hold nothing sacred but the mission.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

Pastor Mary again ...

Have you noticed the two new candle holders and candles on the altar in the sanctuary? They have been newly purchased with memorial monies. They are beautiful and enhance the already lovely worship space in our sanctuary. To join them will be two new candle lighters, which will be used in the chapel and in the sanctuary. *We are grateful for those who have planning and foresight for their church.*

Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the
house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the
Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.



FAREWELL FOR SUPERINTENDENT

LARRY WHITEHEAD

Dear Lay Leader, Staff-Parish Chairperson, Conference Lay Member, Church Admin and Pastor,

As most of you know, North District Conference Superintendent Larry Whitehead will be leaving us to become the new executive assistant to the bishop.

I want to invite you and members of your congregation to a farewell reception at 3 pm ET/2 pm CT on Sunday, June 2 at Grace United Methodist Church in South Bend.

Thank you for the work you do in your community to make disciples for Jesus Christ! I hope to see you at the reception.

Jim Pinkerton

North District Lay Leader



Visitation Workshop

Saturday May 18, 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Mary will lead a workshop for those interested in being part of our visitation ministry – *visiting those who are members or are connected with our church who are no longer able to come to the church on a regular basis.* This is a wonderful ministry – it is a blessing for those who are visited and for the visitor! Pastor Mary has experience establishing this ministry in two prior churches – this workshop provides interesting and valuable information – it equips you! What questions might you have? Come and ask them, or shoot Pastor Mary an email. Thank you to those who have expressed interest – and thank you to those wondering and thinking about this wonderful opportunity. We will aim to be done and out by 11:00 a.m. Pastor Mary will be ready with coffee and *something to go with coffee*, as we begin our time together. *Please indicate your interest by notifying the office or writing on your attendance card in worship.*



Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission team

Hello First church family. The **Second Mile Giving** for the month of May will be **the Children's Ministry**. The money collected will help fund children's ministry activities.

As most of you may know we now have a blessing box at FUMC Hammond thanks to Keelin Kizman and Shayla Deering. So far it is very successful! In the near future there will also be a prayer box attached to the side of the blessing box. How exciting and wonderful it is to have a blessing box at FUMC Hammond in which many people in the community of Hammond will be blessed by! Thank you, Jesus and thanks be to God! I would also like to thank everyone who donated money for April's second Mile Giving which was the Learning League. I am sure that the staff and volunteers are very grateful and thankful for the support.

The Spring Rummage Sale is Saturday May 11, from 9am to 1pm. We will begin setting up tomorrow! Items that we are collecting for sale include kitchenware, dishes, bed linens, jewelry, tools, toys, books, purses, shoes, home décor, technology items such as home phones, collectibles, baby clothes and more. *Items that we are not collecting are televisions, VCR players, computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, large electronic items, children's clothes or adult clothes.* **The Learning League will also be having a bake sale** – there will be delicious baked goods!

The ministries which will benefit from this fundraiser include: Missions, Learning League, UMW and current expense. Well, as many of you can see the mission team is always busy and there is always plenty of mission work to do.

One of the co-chairs of the Mission Team, Richard Miller

Annual Conference



What is Annual Conference? Our Bishop Trimble describes it better than I can! He says, "Annual Conference is a time of worship, celebration, reflection, doing mission and collaborating on the business of the church! Our theme is From Water to Witness! ... It is my hope that our time together at Annual Conference will strengthen our call to be engaged in the mission of the church!"

We, as the Indiana Conference, are going to help victims of the opioid crisis with a missional activity every church can participate in. Please bring lap blankets, bought or homemade (about 3'x5'), that we will donate to Brianna's Hope. We will have opportunities to pray over these blankets before they are sent out. The blankets are given to new participants at their first meeting as a powerful reminder that God and the community is always available for them. The blankets we collect will be distributed to the over 30 ABL-BH Chapters.

There is a container in the mission corner with several blankets, as well as, a sign- up sheet of those who are donating. Thank you to all of you!

On Wednesday, June 12, I will be taking those blankets to Indianapolis along with several other members of our church. I love Annual Conference! To me it is like a spiritual retreat and so refreshing and inspirational to be singing, praying and worshiping with hundreds of other believers. We will be there from *June 12 to the 15th*, but you can go for one day or more!

If you are interested in going, please let me know soon! Thank you!

Pauline Luthi - Co-Lay Leader

The Vine Food Pantry News

During the months of March and April, 2019, The United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), received an over abundance of fresh foods, such as milk, potatoes, apples, oranges, onions, carrots and celery, along with frozen chicken, turkey roasts and pork sausage patties, which they have distributed to local food pantries throughout Northwest Indiana. These fresh and frozen items are a big part of the total pounds distributed at The Vine; in fact, we have been able to increase the amounts we give to our clients! In February we distributed 5,740 pounds of food, and in March the total was 8,601 pounds. April's total is expected to be about 6,000 pounds. **Our new refrigerator is getting a workout!** Our clients love the fresh fruits and vegetables, and they get pretty excited when they see the extra items in their bags! Following is a thank-you note we received from a client:

“Thank you for your kindness and generosity in distributing food to the folks in our community. I know that many people, including myself, depend on food from The Vine. For myself, you have made a difference in my life. Thank you for always being there for me. You are truly doing God’s work. Sincerely, S.L.”

Our dedicated staff of volunteers includes Dave Armistead, Sue Robertson, Pam Longhi, Fran Miklos, Beth Moll, Jimmy Ortiz, Judy Viehweg and Roseanne Watson. We are here every week to distribute food to our clients. We thank you for your support, donations and prayers as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ!

Sue Robertson, Co-Director



THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE March, 2019

New Clients.....34
Return Clients.....239
Total Served.....273

New Households.....25

Total Pounds Distributed: 8,601*

*** Includes bonus distributions for current clients (200)**

AN ALL-TIME RECORD!!

Thank you for your support, donations and prayers!





HI KIDS! See if you can memorize
this Bible verse!
"I am with you always to the very end."
Matthew 28:20



FUMC Family Easter Celebration

Children, their parents, and volunteers gathered on Saturday, April 13th for lunch, crafts, egg dying, egg hunting, and a mini lesson on the meaning of Easter. About 300 plastic eggs were hidden and found, about 100 eggs were dyed, and lots of hot dogs eaten. Needless to say, a wonderful time was held by all! *Special thanks* to volunteers and to Sue Yerkes and Rita Ashcraft for filling all of those plastic eggs!

~Cheryle Seljan, Children's Ministry

Bottle Caps

Anyone know of a group looking for plastic bottle caps?

Contact Terry Watson
We have lots to donate

Thank you.



Booklet Honoring the Women in Our Lives

If you would like to honor a woman or remember a woman who has passed, please see Georgia Brown, outside the church office on May 5 for a form to include those names in Our UMW booklet which will be available on Mother's Day, May 12.

These forms must be completed and turned in by May 5

~ Georgia Brown



Scrip Cards

Are you interested in maybe buying something for the mom in your life, graduations, birthdays, new babies ... but don't know what to give?

SCRIP Cards are the perfect gift for that person who is hard to shop for. We have plenty of cards and if you don't see one that we have available, we can special order for you.

Your donation also helps FUMC.



A WORD OF THANKS and GRATEFUL HEARTS



We would like to say a big “thank you” to everyone who prepared food and worked so hard to make Pastor Donna’s Retirement Party such a wonderful success. Blessings to all!!

Judy, Penny, and Char



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jim and I want to thank you for the wonderful gifts of prayer blankets for each of us. What a beautiful surprise!

Jim’s with him at Symphony of Dyer in constant use. Mine is well used everyday.

There is nothing more healing than the Power of Prayer!

God Bless you all!

Hugs,
Jim and Sandy Kizman



HAVEN HOUSE, INC.

P.O. Box 2122, Hammond, IN 46323
Ph. (219) 931-9800. Fax (219) 931-8036
HavenHouse.org

“What the Caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly.”

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Please accept this thanks for your recent donation of paper goods, toiletries, and household cleaners to Haven House. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated and truly makes a difference in the lives of women and children.

Very truly yours,

Haven House



**FUMC
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHERS NEEDED**
For Sunday School class

Kindergarten through 5th grade
The curriculum will be provided.

We have had a good response, though we still want 1-2
more volunteers!

We need one to two people from 9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.

**Please Contact
Cheryle Seljan or Pastor Mary
If you are interested**



Directed by: Albert M. Jackson

Presents

Music of Mendelssohn

Sunday, May 5, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Covenant United church of Christ

1130 E. 154th Street

South Holland, IL 60473

Mendelssohn's second symphony, called the "Hymn of Praise," was written in the style of Beethoven's 9th symphony, with a free-standing hour-long finale which stands complete as a concert in itself, and includes full orchestra, chorus, and soloists. Come bask in the luminous music of Felix Mendelssohn as the Chorale is once again joined by soloists and the Lakeshore symphony Orchestra for our eighth annual spring choral/orchestral concert!

Ken Wheeler



May Birthdays

2019

Josiah Allen Hoffman	5/1
Mario Bravo	5/2
Grace Adkinson	5/5
Bev Hornak	5/5
Irma Mora	5/8
Jim Wind	5/8
Russ Godbout	5/9
Judy Viehweg	5/10
Heidi Wicklund	5/11
DJ Williams Jr.	5/19
Noah Hernandez	5/20
Josie Hawkins	5/28



We want to celebrate your birthday by including you on this list. If your special day is during this month, and your name is not listed *please let us know*. Please pass along information about others in your household, as well.



Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the **June newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **May 20th** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org. Thank for your cooperation!

Prayer and Scripture Calendar May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 Psalm 30</p> <p>S. Preda Family</p> <p>12 John 10:22-30</p> <p>Liz Roman-Merced</p> <p>19 Psalm 148</p> <p>R. Serna Family</p> <p>26 Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5</p> <p>Kathleen Stricker</p>	<p>6 Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)</p> <p>Katy & Jen Province-Garza</p> <p>13 Psalm 23</p> <p>James & Amy Rummel</p> <p>20 John 13:31-35</p> <p>K. Shelton Family</p> <p>27 Acts 16:9:15</p> <p>D. Tapper Family</p>	 <p>7 Revelations 1:4-8</p> <p>Jenna Province</p> <p>14 Acts 9:36-43</p> <p>Ralph & Jane Schauer</p> <p>21 Acts 11:1-18</p> <p>Henry & Pat Showers</p> <p>28 Psalm 67</p> <p>N. Tompulis Family</p>	<p>1 Genesis 22:1-18</p> <p>James Ortiz</p> <p>8 John 20:19-31</p> <p>Beryl Puckering</p> <p>15 Revelations 7:9-17</p> <p>John Schu</p> <p>22 Revelations 21:1-6</p> <p>Kathy Smith</p> <p>29 John 14:13-29</p> <p>A Valdez Family</p>	<p>2 Isaiah 55:1-11</p> <p>Jan Pazdur</p> <p>9 Luke 24:1-12</p> <p>Joe Ramirez & Charlotte Moore</p> <p>16 I Peter 2:19-25</p> <p>D. Seehausen Family</p> <p>23 John 15:1-8</p> <p>R. Smith Family</p> <p>30 Luke 24:44-53</p> <p>M. van Wijk Family</p>	<p>3 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21</p> <p>Mary Jo Peters</p> <p>10 I Corinthians 15:19-26</p> <p>John Reed</p> <p>17 I John 3:16-24</p> <p>Cheryle Seljan</p> <p>24 I John 4:7-21</p> <p>Gwen Sonner</p> <p>31 Ephesians 1:15-23</p> <p>Jerry Vestal Family.</p>	<p>4 Ezekiel 37:1-14</p> <p>Tim & Brenda Petty</p> <p>11 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</p> <p>Sue Robertson</p> <p>18 Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>Mary Seljan</p> <p>25 I Peter 2:2-10</p> <p>Barney & Pam Stahl</p> 

May 2019							June 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
			9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1	11:00am P.E.O (4,5,6) 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled events
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BROWN BAG SUNDAY 7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-set-up 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-Set-up (9)	No Learning League (Election Day) 7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-set-up (9) 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor	7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-set-up (9) 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Emmaus (3)	LL-Five Guys Fundraiser 7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-set-up (9) 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events 7:30am Spring Rummage Sale-set-up (9)	Closed except for scheduled events 9:00am Spring Rummage Sale(9-1) (8,9)
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MOTHER'S DAY 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	6:00pm Genesisus Guild - Rehearsal (8,9) 6:30pm G.S. Leaders-4	6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9)	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 6:00pm Learning League Board Meeting (Library)	Closed except for scheduled events 12:00pm EGALS (off-site)	Closed except for scheduled events
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Missions-A 1:00pm Private Event (8, kitchen)	1:00pm Trustees (4) 7:00pm Staff Parish-1	6:00pm Learning League Board Meeting 7:00pm Finance (A)	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UMW Board (parlor)	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled events 4:00pm Private Event (8)
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (Bible Study) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	Office Closed (Observance of Memorial Day)	6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm Church Council (1) 7:00pm G.G. Board-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9)	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9)	Closed except for scheduled events	