



Wesley

United Methodist Church
A Place for You



I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

February 27, 2019

Dear Wesley family,

It was difficult to listen to the special General Conference unfold. The One Church Plan, the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and recommended by the majority of the bishops, did not pass. On February 26 the delegates approved the Traditional Plan that keeps in place the hurtful language crafted and approved by another general conference body in 1972. Parts of the Traditional Plan also contains punitive measures for LGBTQiA clergy and all clergy who celebrate weddings of people of the same gender. A good portion of the Traditional Plan was ruled as unconstitutional and so it is unclear how or if it will be implemented, especially in our Western Jurisdiction. Bishop Carcaño will be traveling throughout the conference beginning Sunday to talk with clergy and congregations about the impact of the legislation. The meeting closest to Fresno is on April 24th at Tulare UMC at 6:30pm. We will be organizing carpools to attend.

Since 1984, a mere twelve years after the first harmful language was codified in the Book of Discipline, Wesley Fresno voted to be a Reconciling Congregation, a place where all people are welcome, celebrated and included. Over the past 36 years we have continually lived into what a diverse body of Christ can look like. We will keep being Wesley. We will keep loving each person that walks in the doors. We will keep welcoming people to participate in all areas of the church life.

Let us pray for God's love to shape and guide our actions. May Jesus be the model for our walking in the way of peace. May the Spirit comfort and encourage us to love boldly and with hope in our hearts. We are Wesley, God's people, and we are all of sacred worth.

Peace,

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