



Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church

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Bishop John Schol
Greater NJ Conference of the United Methodist Church
205 Jumping Brook Road
Neptune, NJ 07753

March 25, 2019

Dear Bishop Schol:

We at Mt Horeb UMC feel that all human beings have sacred worth and as such should be able to serve the church and have full access to **every** aspect of the church. The recent decision by the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church to approve the Traditional Plan we feel does egregious harm to members of our community. We renounce this position and as true disciples of Jesus Christ, will not adhere to it.

At our monthly Administrative Council meeting, which we have on Sundays after services and that was attended by the majority of our congregation, we agreed to officially inform you of our position. We feel that the limitations put on LGBTQIA+ members and clergy as well as the harsh consequences for pastors who perform same-sex marriages are inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ who has called upon his followers to love God and love their neighbors as themselves. The position of the denomination is perpetuating significant harm on members and clergy whose sacred worth is being denied.

In addition to this communication, we have also resolved to:

1. Suspend paying our "fair share giving" indefinitely. We are unwilling to support a denomination that discriminates. Everyone is welcome to worship at our church and be full participating members. We will reevaluate the withholding of our Fair share when, and if, we are convinced that all truly are welcome.
2. Explore our options including the possibility of withdrawing from the denomination to maintain the integrity and inclusion within our community.

After hearing the story of the impact this policy has on our DS Reverend Drew Dyson, who is unable to officiate at the wedding of his daughter without losing his job, something is terribly wrong. This personal harm is impacting all levels and it is time that it stopped. We are not willing to continue to do grave harm to those who stand beside us as we worship and love Jesus.

Sincerely,

James Moreno, Lay leader
John Mailhot, Trustee Chair
Triston Handlin, Administrative Council Chair
Rob Vogel, Finance Chair

and the entire leadership and congregation of Mt Horeb United Methodist Church