

Church Council Resolution

Unanimously approved by FUMCR Church Council on March 2, 2020

The United Methodist Church's upcoming General Conference brings with it anxiety around the possibility of some churches breaking away and forming a new denomination. Issues around human sexuality, particularly around the rights and privileges of LGBTQ members, have brought us to a point of possible separation.

The Church Council of FUMCR is committed to following our mission to welcome people for Christ, grow people in Christ, and serve people with Christ. We believe we are being biblically faithful in being a "Big Tent" church, one in which not everyone will agree on a host of issues, but one in which we are all committed to the same mission. FUMCR has been, and will continue to be, a place where everyone is welcome — encompassing the entire range of theological perspectives. We will continue to live out our Christ-centered Core Values of Compassion, Humility, Respect, Inclusion, Servanthood, and Teamwork. We will be a church where all people, including LGBTQ persons, are affirmed as children of God. We believe that discrimination or exclusion of individuals is inconsistent with God's commandment to love our neighbors. We will trust our FUMCR lay and pastoral leadership to bring us through this time and guide us to continue to be true to who we are and who God is calling us to be.

This is a time for us to be unified in mission and in prayer. John Wesley once said, "Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences." We, the Church Council, commit to pray for our church, and join hands as we walk boldly into the future God has for us. That future, as does our past, invites us to "Love All and Serve All" with the confidence we have as recipients of God's grace.

Tim Griffy, 2020 Church Council Chair