



## *Nov. 4, 2019 - Info from the Pastoral Advisory Team*

Dear members and friends of First Church - Evanston,

Greetings from the Pastoral Advisory Team at First Church! We are the church members who have been convened to listen and gather information about the current schism in the United Methodist Church and provide the pastoral staff assistance as we prayerfully listen to how God is leading First Church.

We continue to meet as a group every Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. We encourage you to email us with any input you might have at our new email address, specifically designed to be simple for the Pastoral Advisory Team:

[PAT@faithatfirst.com](mailto:PAT@faithatfirst.com)

In this email, we want to invite you to:

1. Sign a letter to the [Council of Bishops](#), who are meeting November 3-6, 2019, asking for a moratorium on all complaints, charges, and trials of LGBTQ clergy and for clergy performing same-gender weddings pending the outcome of the May 2020 General Conference. [Click here](#) to join more than 5,800 others in the call for the moratorium on trials!
2. Contact out Northern Illinois Conference Bishop Dyck, asking her to suspend all complaints and trials in the Northern Illinois Conference. Send your email to: [mandrews@umcnic.org](mailto:mandrews@umcnic.org). You can [click here](#) to learn more about Bishop Dyck.
3. Be informed of the Identity Statement of the Northern Illinois Conference, which will be presented for vote at the Special Annual Conference on November 16. Please contact our First Church lay delegates to the Annual Conference should you wish for further conversation.

Identity Statement: Following the witness of Jesus, we, the Northern Illinois Conference, are committed to becoming entirely inclusive and welcoming. We foster and celebrate the dignity and sacred worth of all of God's creation. By the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's love, we commit ourselves to grow in love and understanding for one another, and commit to breaking down the walls that divide us. We hold the fullness of Wesleyan theology as a cornerstone of our faith, including the receiving and testing of Holy Scriptures through the lens of reason, tradition, and experience. We seek to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Finally, the Judicial Council, the United Methodist's supreme court, met in Evanston last week. Among its ruling, the Council affirmed Bishop Karen

Oliveto's ruling that parts of a conference resolution that refused to comply with the Traditional Plan or with church prohibitions on homosexuality were out of order. They also upheld Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling's decision to approve ministerial candidates as a group and not as individuals. This means LGBTQI ministerial candidates are not singled out as individuals. You can get more details of the Judicial Council proceedings [here](#).

Sincerely,

Abbey Ogunbola, Bill Brown, Beth Swanick, Grant Bailey, Jim Hagedorn, Judy Freitag, Phil Carihfield and Grace Imathiu

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## Contact

**First United Methodist Church**  
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*First United Methodist Church is a community of Christians inviting all people to grow in their relationship with God and to live their faith in the world.*

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First United Methodist Church, 516 Church St, Evanston, IL 60201

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