

Faithful People of Peace UMC,

I write today to address two items affecting the life of Peace UMC.

First, during a recent process of discernment, the Church Council of Peace UMC determined that our members have worship so that everyone can glorify God, give thanks, grow as disciples together, and be inspired for action in a way that draws new disciples to follow Christ.

At the conclusion of this process the Church Council decided Peace UMC will offer one Sunday morning worship experience. **Beginning Sunday, March 10, 2019, Peace UMC will be offering one Sunday morning worship experience at 9:30am.**

And **secondly**, as you may be aware, the **Special United Methodist General Conference**, held in St. Louis, MO, passed what is called the “Traditional Plan”, with a vote of 438 to 384. This plan prohibits clergy from performing marriage ceremonies between same sex couples. It also prohibits the ordination of pastors who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals”.

In a time like this, it's crucial to remember that Peace United Methodist Church has always, and will always, welcome every person. We believe everyone is a beloved child of God. Throughout the history of this church, this vital message is what we preached, sang, and believed, and we will continue this important message in the days and years to come.

Our strength is the diversity within our body. We need each other. We are called to be compassionate toward each other.

Finally, and most importantly, I invite you to use compassion: compassion toward yourself and toward others. Give God your troubles, uncertainty, and anger. Be compassionate toward those who are troubled by all that is happening, especially toward youth and young adults who are struggling with their identity and faith.

Use compassion toward all those who have different opinions from you in this matter. Let God's love shine through us.

Blessings to All,

Pastor Jeff