

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

September 2020 / Volume 3, Number 8

Lacey United Methodist Church

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Head of the Church: Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: Jonathan Campbell

Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski

Pianist-Choir Director: Dawn Slate

Chimes Director: Dawn Slate

Facility Maintenance – Grounds: Mike Orlick

Trustee Chair: Bill Jones

Church Council Chair: Rich Rosfjord

Staff Parish Team Chair: Rose Coram

Children-Youth Education: Sue Newman

Finance Chair: Steven Michalkowski

Head Counter: Becky Buglione

Thrift Shoppe: Elaine Brandt

Mission: Donna Jones

Outreach: Kenny Pitman

Worship: Dawn Marie Kuch

Hospitality Kitchen: Bill Buglione

Hot Lunch Mission: Roseann DePasquale & Ed Weisbrot

Summer Lunch Mission: Sherry Exel & Gail Matuska

MISSION STATEMENT

The vision and mission of Lacey United Methodist Church is to welcome, nurture and serve all. Sharing God's grace with open arms. Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God.

BIBLE VERSE FOR DECISION-MAKING

Proverbs 3: 5 - 6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

IMPORTANT DECISIONS COMING SOON



With the 2021 General Conference rapidly approaching, now is probably a good time to start thinking again about what may be happening with the United Methodist denomination. In addition, how will this affect our own local church? An email was sent out to a majority of the congregation from Pastor Jonathan with links to various websites to assist us with making an educated decision as to how we would like to see our church move forward. Pastor Jonathan is available to answer any questions at 845-893-9157 or pastorjcampbell@hotmail.com.

Believe me, there will be questions because there is plenty involved. The next two pages of this newsletter lists some of the key points of the four main suggested possible articles of legislation that are being decided upon. Also, I included a brief summation of two of the organizations that have become extremely important with this process of separation. I do suggest that everyone check out the links to the different organizations because this is probably going to be the most important decision that you have to make in regards to your method of worship. I have some of the websites listed on the next two pages also.

I will be asking God for help with my decision, as I am sure most of you will be doing also. With the world being divided on many issues, I just never thought the church would display a similar division.

God Bless,

Dominic Gregoria

Join us on Sundays at 9AM for virtual worship!

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/LaceyUMCNJ/>

or Web: laceyumc.org

COMPARISONS OF PROPOSALS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE ABOUT STRUCTURE OF UMC

“New Denominations of United Methodism” (indyplanumc.org/)

- Plan developers support the Protocol.
- 2 – 3 or more global denominations – traditionalist and centrist/progressive.
- The UMC continues through the Centrist UMC.
- Other denominations may be formed by 50+ local churches or an annual conference(s).
- Annual and central conferences, by simple majority, choose to join any new denomination.
- Clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.
- Central conferences may become autonomous.
- Local churches, by simple majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.
- Sets interim exemption from LGBTQ prohibitions for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.
- Sets interim suspension of complaints and disciplinary actions related to LGBTQ bans for Centrist conferences, churches and clergy.
- All denominations develop their own structures, polity and governance.
- Wespath, UMCOR, UMW, UM Men, UMPH become independent to serve any denomination.
- All other agencies become part of the Centrist UMC with the option to serve other denominations.
- Jurisdictional or annual conference institutions may change affiliation or become independent.

“New Expressions Worldwide” (um-forward.org/the-new-plan)

- 4 global denominations – traditionalists, moderate, progressive and liberationist.
- The UMC dissolves.
- A transitional council develops a plan of separation.
- Annual conferences, central conferences, clergy and bishops choose to join any new denomination.
- Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.
- Establishes an immediate moratorium on charges, complaints and trials related to LGBTQ prohibitions.
- New denominations determine their own policies, structure and processes.
- General agencies become independent 501(c)3 organizations.

“Next Generation UMC” (umcnext.com/legislation/)

- Plan developers support the Protocol.
- 1 or more denominations – The UMC remains intact with options for new Methodist denominations that continue in relationship with the UMC.
- Congregations, clergy and conferences determine affiliations.
- Local churches, by 2/3 majority, may choose to separate from the UMC and retain property, assets and liabilities.
- Removes LGBTQ prohibitions and Traditional Plan additions.
- A special commission proposes a new constitution and governance structures.
- A special called General Conference makes constitutional amendments or adopts a new constitution proposed by the special commission.
- Creates a U.S. regional conference and a U.S. regional committee of the General Conference.

“Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” (gracethroughseparation.com)

- 2 or more denominations.
- A new traditionalist denomination is formed and others may also be formed.
- The UMC continues after separation.
- Central conferences, by 2/3 majority, may vote to form/join a new Methodist denomination.
- Annual conferences, by 57% majority, may vote to form/join a new Methodist denomination.
- Local churches, by either a simple or 2/3 majority, may choose a different denomination than that of their annual conference and retain property, assets and liabilities.
- Clergy remain members of their annual conference, unless they choose otherwise.
- New Methodist denominations must meet qualification standards.
- Local churches affiliating with a new denomination must maintain connectional responsibilities until separation.
- Separating churches/entities do not retain rights to use the UM name, cross and flame, or other intellectual property.
- The UMC and new denominations may enter into ecumenical agreements.
- New Methodist denominations may contract for services or establish missional agreements with UM agencies.

Reconciling Ministries Network (rmnetwork.org)

Mission: Living into our shared baptismal covenant, Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists to resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we seek justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Vision: RMN envisions a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to transform ourselves and the world by living out the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice, and celebration of all of God's children.

Wesleyan Covenant Association (wesleyancovenant.org)

The Wesleyan Covenant Association connects Spirit-filled, orthodox churches, clergy, and laity who hold to Wesleyan theology.

Summation of Moral Principles: We believe that both men and women are called to and gifted for ordained and licensed ministry, and both genders are able to hold any role of leadership within the WCA. No person shall be disqualified from becoming a member of a local congregation, holding a leadership position in the church, or becoming an ordained or licensed clergy based on race, color, nationality, national origin, marital status, or economic condition. We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. We believe that God intends faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group are to be repudiated.

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SOME QUOTES FROM ADAM HAMILTON’S “HALF TRUTHS”

1. *God has given us freedom to make choices, for better or worse. So, when we do something wrong, we can't blame God*
2. *As Scripture reveals over and over again, God works through people. We are the instruments God uses to change the world.*
3. *When Jesus speaks to sinful people, he doesn't talk about their sin but about God's forgiveness.*
4. *Jesus was often pushing back against prevailing interpretations of Scripture among the rabbis of his day.*
5. *The promise of Scripture is not that we won't go through hard times....What Scripture does promise is that at all times, good or bad, God wants to be our help and our strength.*

**"We're living in a
world that keeps
breakin'**

+++++

**But if we want to find
a way to change it**

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**It all comes down to
this**

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**Love God and love
people"**

**Danny Gokey &
Colby Wedgeworth**

INFORMATION WILL BE COMING SOON IN REGARDS TO
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HOW TO PARTICIPATE.

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ANY YOUTH INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE
DRAMA CLUB ZOOM SESSIONS CONTACT DOMINIC AT
donnieg777@hotmail.com.

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IN-PERSON WORSHIP HAS RESUMED. VOLUNTEERS ARE
NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH VARIOUS WORSHIP ROLES
(INCLUDING USHERS, COUNTERS, ETC.). SPACE IS
LIMITED DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES.
PLEASE CONTACT THE LUMC OFFICE AT 609-693-5222
OR laceyumcnj@gmail.com TO REGISTER TO ATTEND,
VOLUNTEER OR OBTAIN A COPY OF LUMC'S RE-OPENING
STATEMENT. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS AND
WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU ARE ON CHURCH PROPERTY.
EMAIL US TO HEAR A FAVORITE HYMN AT SERVICE.

LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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