

LUMC'S COMMUNITY REVELATIONS

February 2020 / Volume 3, Number 1

Lacey United Methodist Church

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www.laceyumc.org

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

Ministers: All of Us

Pastor: Linda Applegate

Lay Leader: Ed Wojciechowski

Admin. Assistant: Joann Michalkowski

Pianist-Choir Director: Dawn Slate

Chimes Director: Bill Applegate

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: Ellen Larney & Gail Matuska

BIBLE VERSE ON THE CONSUMMATION OF LOVE

1 John 4: 17 – 19: *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*

BIBLE VERSE ON MARRIAGE

Ephesians 5: 25 – 33: *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

KEY MODIFICATIONS WITHIN THE NEW DISCIPLINE

- (a) The priority of mission and ministry is carried out through local congregations.
- (b) The doctrine, teachings, Wesleyan Path and mission of the church is elevated for guiding the church and making decisions.
- (c) A board of stewards is created at each level of the church to organize, oversee, implement and evaluate ministry.
- (d) Laity are given more engagement and authority in the leading of the church.
- (e) Clear outcomes are identified for each aspect of the organizational life of the church.
- (f) Two clear paths are outlined for congregations that seek to leave the denomination – affiliation for those who want to affiliate with another Wesleyan denomination and disaffiliation for those who want to leave the denomination and be independent.

The annual conference, or what is called the connectional church in The Connection, is the primary unit that links congregations with each other and the global mission of the church. The goal is to present a new Book of

Discipline that helps to renew the denomination from the inside out. The above modifications are from a small section of The Connection and are still being modified and then will have to be presented at the General Conference in May.

United Methodist Traditionalists, Centrists, Progressives, & Bishops Sign Agreement Aimed At Separation

A diverse group of representatives from United Methodist advocacy groups with contrasting views and bishops from around the world has collaborated on a proposed agreement for the separation of The United Methodist Church (UMC) that has the unanimous support of all the parties involved. The agreement, the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, was achieved on December 17, 2019, and announced on January 3, 2020. The action comes amid heightened tensions in the church over conflicting views related to human sexuality after the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference failed to resolve differences among church members.

Legislation to implement the Protocol statement — an eight-page document detailing the terms of a split of the 13+ million-member denomination — is expected to come before the United Methodist General Conference for a vote at their legislative meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. in May 2020. The 16-member group came together as an outgrowth of a consultation initiated by bishops from Central Conferences located outside the United States. The parties sought assistance from prominent attorney Kenneth Feinberg, who specializes in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. Feinberg, who served as Special Master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and administrator of the BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Victim Compensation Fund, along with a number of other complex matters, agreed to provide his services pro bono.

Meeting over several months, the unofficial group reached an agreement by signatories associated with all of the constituencies within the UMC for a mutually supported pathway for separation, bridging differences among other plans to be considered by the General Conference. “The undersigned propose restructuring The United Methodist Church by separation as the best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the Church to remain true to its theological understanding, while recognizing the dignity, equality, integrity, and respect of every person,” says the Protocol Statement. The document’s signers include representatives from Europe, Africa, the Philippines, and the United States, and include persons representing UMCNext; Mainstream UMC; Uniting Methodists; The Confessing Movement; Good News; The Institute on Religion & Democracy; the Wesleyan Covenant Association; Affirmation; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Reconciling Ministries Network; and the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus; as well as bishops from the United States and across the world. The representatives have pledged to work together to support the proposal and develop legislation to implement it.

The Protocol anticipates the formation of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination. Once formed, the new church would receive \$25 million over the next four years and give up further claim to the UMC’s assets. An additional \$2 million would be allocated for potential additional new Methodist denominations which may emerge from the UMC. Acknowledging the historical role of the Methodist movement in systematic racial violence, exploitation and discrimination, the Protocol would allocate \$39 million to ensure there is no disruption in supporting ministries for communities historically marginalized by racism. Under the Protocol, conferences and local congregations could vote to separate from The United Methodist Church to affiliate with new Methodist denominations created under the agreement within a certain time frame. Churches wishing to stay within the UMC would not be required to conduct a vote. Provisions exist for entities that choose to separate to retain their assets and liabilities. All current clergy and lay employees would keep their pensions regardless of the Methodist denomination with which they affiliate.

Under the Protocol, all administrative or judicial processes addressing restrictions in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist related to self-avowed practicing homosexuals or same-sex weddings, as well as actions to close churches, would be held in abeyance until the separation is completed. The Protocol also references a plan which calls for a special general conference of the post-separation United Methodist Church. The purpose of the Special Session would be to create regional conferences, remove the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, and to repeal the Traditional Plan. Speaking on behalf of the group, Bishop John Yambasu (Sierra Leone) stated, “All of us are servants of the church and realize that we are not the primary decision makers on these matters. Instead, we humbly offer to the delegates of the 2020 General Conference the work which we have accomplished in the hopes that it will help heal the harms and conflicts within the body of Christ and free us to be more effective witnesses to God’s Kingdom.” The signatories to the Protocol have provided a FAQ document to provide additional information about the agreement. Comments and questions may be directed to the signatories at mediationprotocol@outlook.com.

Refer to www.gnjumc.org for a list of the members of the Mediation Team and more info.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

6:15PM at America's Keswick, 601 County Road 530, Whiting, NJ

Thursday, February 13: Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Weigel, O. C. Baptist Church

Thursday, March 12: Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Woods, NJ National Guard

See Bill Jones if interested and for meet-up time at LUMC.



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Friday, February 7: 6:30PM - VALENTINES PARTY

Saturday, February 8: 9:00AM - MINI 4WD FUNDRAISER

\$8 per car per category/ 2 categories = \$15 / 3 categories = \$20

Box stock & Tuned: All ages / Jr.: 14 and under

3 lane track will be used. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

You can prepurchase a car through us for \$20 or buy one the day of event. You can also purchase on your own. Cars come not assembled. Food and beverages available for purchase.

For info, contact rcmaniac79@comcast.net (Bill)

Smokey798105@comcast.net (April)

Jvanarsdale828@gmail.com (Jackie)

Friday, February 14: NO YOUTH GROUP

Friday, February 21: 6:00PM – COOKING WARS (with a special guest)

Friday, February 28: 6:30PM - BRING A FRIEND FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

DRAMA CLUB

Every Tuesday from 5:00PM until 6:30PM.

New Youth are always welcomed to sign up!

Contact Dominic at donnieg777@hotmail.com.

There will be no session on Tuesday, February 18 and Tuesday, March 17.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, February 9: 12:00PM – 8TH ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (value up to \$10).

Wednesday, February 26: 7:00PM – ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, March 13: 7:00PM – SWIM NIGHT AT KESWICK

\$5 per person and \$10 per family.

Saturday, March 21: RISE AGAINST HUNGER

GNJUMC will gather to put together 500,000 meals in one day! Info will be coming soon!

GREETERS AND USHERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

See Head Ushers Cindy Dreher or Rick Waddell for more info.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE SENT TO DONNIEG777@HOTMAIL.COM.

***“Love will
sustain
Love will
provide
Love will not
cease
At the end of
time”
Brandon Heath***

BISHOP JOHN SCHOL: *While we wrestle with the future of our denomination, there continues to be a world that calls for transformation and people in need of discipleship. I urge you not to let our denominational challenges affect your witness to your community. I invite you to turn outward in your ministry that serves Jesus Christ.*



LACEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO Box 151
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