

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT
17 Kent Place Boulevard • Summit, NJ 07901

THE DIALOGUE

March 2018



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Lent has arrived.



And so now we enter the wilderness:

*the place where the questions rise like sand in
the wind,*

the place where sustenance seems out of reach,

*the place where abundance of grace comes
strangely in privation.*

*Let us join in our patterns of worship:
gathering on Sundays and Wednesdays to
strengthen each other on the journey,
lifting to God our prayers,
individual and communal.*

*Join in adding your prayers to our
Lenten Prayer Tree,
found outside the nursery.*

*Jot a prayer on a tag,
and tie it to the tree.*

*Even in barren settings such as the wilderness of Lent,
God is listening;
God is with you.*

*Shawn Callender Hogan
Pastor*

Commission on a Way Forward fleshing out 3 possible futures

By Heather Hahn

Jan. 22, 2018 | UMNS

The Commission on a Way Forward is fleshing out the details of three possible models for how the denomination treats LGBTQ inclusion.

The multinational group, appointed by United Methodist bishops, held its seventh meeting behind closed doors Jan. 18-20 in Dallas.

Each model has its supporters among the 32 commission members with no single plan having a clear majority, commission members told United Methodist News Service.

“Some commission members prefer one sketch; others prefer a different sketch,” the Rev. Tom Lambrecht said. “There’s no one sketch that predominates how we think is the best way to go forward.”

Dave Nuckols, another commission member, said that it’s less relevant which model commission members prefer than that they provide the bishops what they need.

The bishops also have asked the commission to draft a theological statement that both informs the three models and creates a compelling narrative for them.

“Ultimately, the final report of our work is really not going to be our final report,” Nuckols said. “It’s going to be what the bishops make of our work because we are supporting them.”

The three options, in no particular order, are:

- Affirm the current Book of Discipline language and place a high value on accountability. The church policy book says the practice of homosexuality “is incompatible with Christian teaching” and lists officiating at a same-gender union or being a “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy member as chargeable offenses under church law.
- Remove the Book of Discipline’s restrictive language and place a high value on contextualization. This sketch also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same-gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.
- Create multiple branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. This model would maintain shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops.

All three models come with a way for churches to exit the denomination.

While United Methodists have bandied about the first two options in earlier church discussions, the third is different from what comes before.

“The multi-branch option is intended to provide a space within the overall church where different groups could operate according to their conscientious beliefs,” Lambrecht said.

“Structurally, that’s still under development as how that would look. But I think the intent is that it would abide by one of the principles we operate under, which is that there would be no winners or losers in this scenario.”

However, Nuckols — a Minnesota Conference lay leader and treasurer of the **Connectional Table** — sees the first and third options as ultimately untenable. He favors something along the lines of the second option, which offers more local decision-making.

“Our bishops requested ‘contextual differentiation,’” he said. “That means allowing more space so that we can each succeed in varied mission fields and so that we no longer litigate a single uniform church law treating married homosexuals differently than married heterosexuals.”

He said the second option offers space within one church, while the third offers space between different branches.

“The simpler Space Within approach cultivates greater tolerance as a sustainable path to unity, discipleship and mission,” he said. “The well-intentioned but complex Space Between approach offers structural co-existence, but in my opinion, its long-term consequences will be instability and schism.”

Lambrecht is a leader in the advocacy groups Good News and the Wesleyan Covenant Association — both of which advocate for maintaining the church’s restrictions.

“I think it’s fair to say most evangelicals would prefer to see an option similar to option one — whether that’s realistic at this point is up for grabs,” he said.

The bishops will use the commission’s work to develop legislation that will go before the 864 lay and clergy delegates of [a special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019](#), in St. Louis, Missouri.

The special meeting of The United Methodist Church’s top lawmaking assembly will be limited to acting on a report by the Council of Bishops. Nevertheless, at least some United Methodists are already drafting their own plans to propose as substitute legislation.

While the Wesleyan Covenant Association has not decided whether to submit its own legislation, Lambrecht said he knows of individuals who are working on their own proposals.

At the beginning of the recent commission meeting, Council of Bishops President Bishop Bruce R. Ough offered some advice to the commission members.

“Time is running short and we need to focus,” he said, according to [a commission press release](#). “Simple is better than complex. Reasonable detail is better than ambiguity. Fewer disciplinary changes is better than more. Honor the parameters and values of the [‘mission, vision and scope’](#) document — unity, contextualization and enhanced mission.”

Retired Bishop David Yemba of the Democratic Republic of Congo also urged the commission to keep the denomination’s global nature in mind. Yemba is one of three bishops serving as commission moderators.

“Many United Methodists outside of the United States would like to see the context be taken into consideration seriously,” he said, according to the press release. “Whatever models the Council of Bishops will come up with and recommend to General Conference as a way forward, it is expected that such a recommendation will provide space to focus on what unites us and not what separates us as well as what we can say together as basic principles on human sexuality in the light of the Gospel.”

The Council of Bishops will have a special meeting in February to review the commission’s work. The commission has two more meetings scheduled this spring. The bishops have a deadline of July 8 to submit their petitions to the special General Conference.

For more information on the Commission of a Way Forward, please check out

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

ECUMENICAL LENTEN CARBON FAST

The Earth Care Team at Summit UMC would like to invite you to take part in an **Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast**.

2018 will be the eighth year that the United Church of Christ provides a day-by-day opportunity to fast from carbon as a Lenten discipline. Initiated by the UCC and endorsed by other denominations and faith groups, people of every Christian perspective – and people who are not Christians – have benefited from this opportunity to become more conscious and conscientious in their daily lives.

Interested?

Check out this link to get more information.

<https://www.macucc.org/carbonfast>

On the site you will see a way to sign up for daily email guides for this carbon fast!

WEDNESDAYS THROUGHOUT LENT (Through March 21st in the Social Hall)

6:00 Soup Supper (Social Hall)

7:00 Worship (in the Chapel)

Each Wednesday evening you are invited to gather **at 6:00 in the Social Hall for a soup supper**. With the help of volunteer “Soup Chefs” we will share in a simple meal as we walk through Lent:



If you are willing to provide a simple soup supper on one of the Wednesday nights, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall so we can plan appropriately. (Please consider making vegetarian options for those who cannot eat meat.) The suppers are a gentle, casual way to mark the weeks of self-reflection, recognizing that we do so as a community.

At each Wednesday night Lenten service (Feb. 21 – March 21), items will be distributed that serve as weekly devotional resources for your home reflection. Each week an object and a coordinated reflection page will be provided for your personal or household use. Gather each one and use it as a source of inspiration and an avenue for spiritual growth. The children of the church will be providing the message at the March 21st service.

JOIN US THROUGHOUT HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

Sunday service at 10:30 am

With palms in hand we will recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of his journey to the cross.



Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:00 p.m. (in the Chapel)

We will gather around the table, remembering the Last Supper and the vulnerability of the night before Jesus' death.

Good Friday, March 30, 2018

7:00pm (in the Chapel)

We will reflect on Jesus' final hours, expressing our gratitude for God's ultimate gift.

EASTER SUNDAY: CHRIST IS RISEN!

April 1, 2018

Join us for

Breakfast from 9 am – 10 am

in the Social Hall,

then gather for worship at

10:30 a.m.: Easter Service

Celebrate the Resurrection through music, prayer, proclamation, and sharing in the Lord's Supper!



CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Where do you see God?
Where are you looking for God?

Blessings, Sherri Shumate;
Director of Christian Education,
sherri.shumate@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school is an opportunity to share our ideas, our questions, our hopes and our prayers. It's a place where all are welcome and where we grow in faith together. Would you be interested in teaching or helping? Have a new idea you'd like to share? Contact me!

Volunteers Welcome!

Interested in helping our young people grow in faith? We could always use additional helpers to assist with Sunday school for children, tweens, and youth. Wow It's Wednesday, and Parents' Night Out. Please contact Sherri Shumate if you're interested.

Age	Teacher	Helper
Children Pre K-3 rd	Noelle Benton	Myrene Reyes
Tweens 4 th - 7 th	Alison Johnson	Cara Verma
Teens 8 th - 12 th	Susan Woolever	Sherri Shumate

March 4	Exodus 20:1-7	The Ten Commandments
March 11	Ephesians 2:1-10	From death to life
March 18	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant
March 25	Mark 11:1-11; 15:1-39	Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem; Jesus' trial

https://www.feastingontheword.net/Content/Site118/Basics/1780FotW2017201_00000025896.pdf

Something New: This spring we will be trying a new Sunday school curriculum. Check it out here: <https://www.feastingontheword.net/Curriculum/>

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year we make an effort to attend our children and youth's concerts, plays, and special events. If your child has an upcoming event you'd like us to be part of, please let me know! We also try to plan our youth ministries around our young people's passions, interests, and needs.

March 10: Cumac Trip, 9:00am - noon

March 22: Watchung musical: Guys & Dolls

March 23 & 24: Summit middle school play: *Once Upon a Mattress*

WORSHIP TOGETHER

We believe the body of Christ includes all of us, bringing our gifts and growing in faith together. Sunday morning all children are invited to remain in worship with their families. Worship buckets with coloring and activities for children connected to the messages are available in the front and rear of the sanctuary. *Bathrooms and a changing table are located in the back of the sanctuary.*

Staff **childcare is available** on Sundays from 9:00am-10:15am and in the Hospitality Room in the rear of the Sanctuary from 10:20-11:30am! Parents are welcome to sign in and drop off their child or to stay with their child. Our staff nursery caregivers are paid, experienced, childcare professionals: Please contact me if you have questions.



Saturday, March 10th

9am – 12pm

Join us for a day of volunteering. Meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 9AM. Please RSVP to Sherri Shumate if you plan to attend. We are limited to 10 participants ages 12 and up. To RSVP or for more information contact Sherri: sherri.shumate@gmail.com

CUMAC is a non-profit organization dedicated to feeding people and changing lives. This team works to alleviate hunger and its root causes in Paterson, Passaic County and New Jersey. <https://www.cumac.org/>

WOW IT'S WEDNESDAY

4:30-6:00pm

Wow It's Wednesday is an intergenerational Christian education & music experience. All are welcome to join us for food, fun, and fellowship. WOW follows the Summit public school calendar. We do not meet on days the Summit public schools do not meet, have early dismissals, or have weather closings.

There is no WOW on March 14, and the children will provide the message at the evening service on March 21.

4:30-4:55pm *Story, Snacks & Sharing*

5:00-5:15pm *Devotions Together*

5:15-6:00pm *Adult Conversations*

5:20-6:00pm *Singing Praises Together*

ECUMENICAL LENTEN CARBON FAST

Deepen your faith experience this Lent by caring for God's creation:

<http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/carbon-fast-resources/>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Graduating Seniors: The United Methodist Church offers two scholarships for graduating students who will be attending an institution for higher education in the fall. These scholarships have been made possible by the compassion of Ms. Evelyn Welsh and Ms. Mildred Wyckoff. To apply for a scholarship you need to submit the following **by April 30th**:

- **A two page essay** highlighting your community, church and school involvement. Please also explain your economic need.

- **Proof of enrollment** from the university/college you will be attending in the fall. Applications can be submitted to the church office or by email to sherri.shumate@gmail.com.

For additional United Methodist scholarship opportunities, visit this website. GNJ scholarships: <https://www.gnjumc.org/resource/2018-gnj-scholarship-instructions-application/>



MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, *Music Director*

*Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.*

WESLEY CHOIR AND SINGING BELIEVERS

Our choirs are **preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter worship**. Rehearsals for the Wesley Choir (part of *Wow, It's Wednesday*) are 5:15pm. The Singing Believers rehearse on **Saturdays at 11:45am**. Let us praise the Lord with our Hosanna and Alleluias.

HAND BELL CHOIR

Our Hand Bell Choir rehearses on **Sunday mornings at 11:45am** in the Sanctuary. **The Bells will be ringing for Palm Sunday and Easter worship.**

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

Our Contemporary Ensemble meets **following worship at 11:45am**. We encourage singers and instrumentalists to join us. The ensemble uses the contemporary "Worship and Song" book. Come and raise your voices or your musical instruments in praise.

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir rehearses on **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** in the Chapel. The Choir sings at Sunday 10:30am worship and will sing for **Holy Thursday, March 29 – worship at 7:00pm warm-up at 6:30pm**. *We will rehearse after worship service in the Sanctuary at 8:00pm in preparation for Easter, April 1.*

As is our tradition, we will be singing the Hallelujah Chorus from "The Messiah". Please come and join us in the chancel area. We have additional music ready for you! Come and make a joyful sound.

*"Easter is the ultimate day for singing our songs of praise and joy.
So let us sing to the God of our joy!"*

****Look for more details in your upcoming emails****

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

LOAVES AND FISHES

On **the first Sunday of each month**, we invite you to bring nonperishable food items to worship, that we might feed others!

We deliver your donations to “Loaves and Fishes”. “Loaves and Fishes” is a vital ministry of care for those in great need and is located at St. Teresa’s Roman Catholic Church, Summit, NJ.

If you wish to contribute, you can bring **bags of non-perishable food** to the sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month, or you can leave bags in the kitchen (on the steps to the pantry) at any time.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Friday, March 23, 2018

8:00pm – 11:00pm (*in the Social Hall*)

Bring your talent along to our monthly ‘**Open Mic Nights**’.

In the intimate, safe and loving environment of the UMC Summit’s Social Hall, let your talents run free and allow the community of Summit to enjoy what you like to express!

If you would like to perform, just drop us a line at umcopenmicnight@gmail.com or call the office at (908) 277-1700.

CAME TO BELIEVE

March 4, 2018

1:00pm





EASTER BASKETS 2018

for the Jefferson Elementary School Community

*Jefferson Elementary School has some unique needs for support, and we can make a difference. Our donation of Easter dinners last year brought much-needed provisions and joy to ten families; so we are once again arranging **Easter dinners for 2018.***

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Special Offering:

On Sunday, **March 18** we will have a special offering envelope in the Sunday bulletin for you to give funds that will be transformed into food and gift cards to families in need.

Easter Meals:

We will put together Easter dinners for families in need. All Easter dinner donations will be gathered by **March 25**, and delivered to and distributed by Jefferson School.

*Below is a list of food items needed for the meals; **you can sign-up in the Social Hall:***

Items Needed

Rice – 2 lb. bag	Can of Frosting
Potatoes – white	Canned Pineapple
Sweet Potatoes/Yams	Canned Beans
Canned Green Beans	Peeps Marshmallow Chicks
Canned Corn	PAAS Egg Dye
Cake Mix	

Dates:

March 18	<i>Food drop off</i>
March 25	<i>Food drop off</i>
March 25	<i>Easter dinner gift boxes assembled</i>
March 26	<i>Easter dinner gift boxes delivered to Jefferson School</i>
	volunteers needed
April 1	<i>Easter Sunday</i>

These acts of care and generosity will go a long way in helping families in our community to have a holiday of joy and abundance.

Please sign up in the Social Hall beginning February 25

*For more information please see **Debbi P.***

Volunteers needed for food delivery!

EASTER FLOWERS 2018

Contributions for Easter Flowers will be received until March 25th. The money collected is used to decorate the Sanctuary, with any remaining money going to provide flowers for future Sunday services. The flowers from Easter will be distributed to our home-bound and hospitalized members and others, as determined by the Pastor.

If you would like your contribution noted in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 1st, please complete the form below. This form may be placed in the offering plate or returned to the Church Office. Please make your ***checks payable to UMC Flower Fund.*** Thank You!

Your

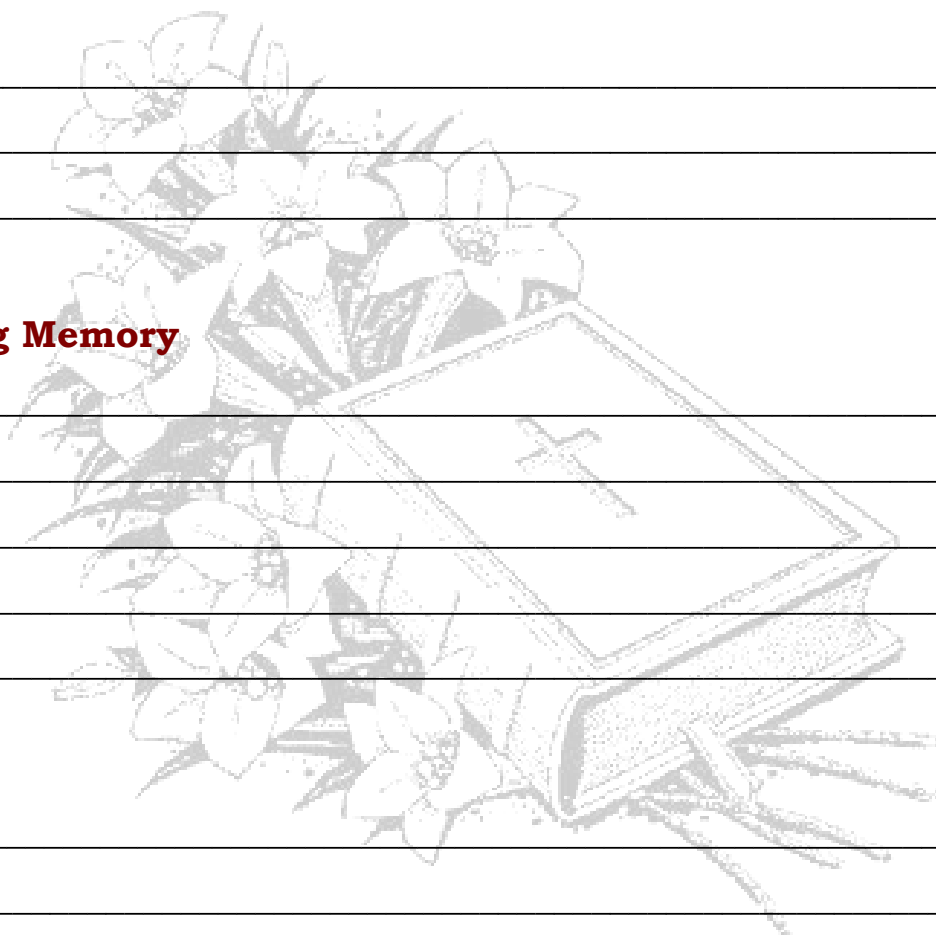
Name: _____

In Loving Memory

of: _____

In Honor

of: _____



MARCH

"To Do" List:

MINISTRY:

Loaves and Fishes –
donations accepted the first Sunday of each month
Knitting Ministry – Thursdays and Fridays
Lenten Services – Wednesdays through 3/21
"Came to Believe" – 3/4
Mission Trip to CUMAC – 3/10
Special Jefferson School Offering – 3/18
Jefferson School Food Drop-Off – 3/18 & 3/25
Family Promise Guests – 3/18 through 4/1
Palm Sunday – 3/25
Maundy Thursday Service – 3/29
Good Friday Service – 3/30

AND MORE:

Confirmation Class – 3/11 & 3/25
Soup Suppers – Wednesdays through 3/21
Open Mic Night – 3/23

MARCH 2018

Summit United Methodist Church ▪ 17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ 908-277-1700

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 9:30am – Chancel Choir 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship 11:45am – Bell Choir 12:15pm – Contemporary Ensemble				1 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	2 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	3 Singing Believers 11:45 am
4 “Came to Believe” 1:00pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	5	6	7 Wow, It’s Wednesday Soup Supper – 6pm Lenten Service – 7pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	8 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	9 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	10 Mission Trip to CUMAC 9am – 12pm Singing Believers 11:45 am
11 Daylight Savings! Confirmation Class - 5:30pm <i>(Social Hall)</i>	12	13	14 <u>No Wow, It’s Wednesday</u> Soup Supper – 6pm Lenten Service – 7pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	15 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	16 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	17 Singing Believers 11:45 am
18 Jefferson School Special Offering Family Promise Guests arrive	19	20	21 Wow, It’s Wednesday Soup Supper – 6pm Lenten Service – 7pm <i>(Chapel)</i>	22 Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	23 Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i> Open Mic Night 8-11pm <i>(Social Hall)</i>	24 Singing Believers 11:45 am
25 PALM SUNDAY Jefferson School food drop off & baskets assembled Family Promise Confirmation Class - 5:30pm	26 Easter dinners delivered to Jefferson School (volunteers needed)	27	28 Wow, It’s Wednesday	29 HOLY THURSDAY Service – 7:00pm <i>(Chapel)</i> Knitting Ministry 1:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	30 GOOD FRIDAY Service – 7:00pm <i>(Chapel)</i> Knitting Ministry 7:00pm <i>(Fellowship Room)</i>	31 HOLY SATURDAY Singing Believers 11:45 am

MARCH Birthdays and *Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Enjoy Your Day!				1 Terry Schaefer Abbey Smith	2 Heather Fern	3 Beverly Brown Aiden Curtis Richard Rodriguez
4	5	6	7	8	9 Joshua Reyes	10
11	12 Waveny Hall	13	14	15 Adam Fern	16	17 Karen Toulon
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Bill Houpt Bradley and Riley Smith	27	28	29	30 *Jay and Natalie Flamme Cynthia Post Jenna Vartan	31 Louise DeMartin Laurie Monroe