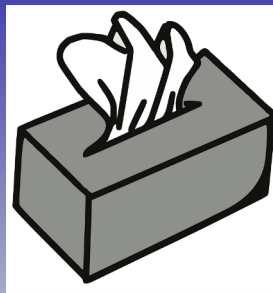


THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church

Tissues for Teachers



During the month of January, the Outreach Ministry Team will be collecting full size boxes of Kleenex or other brands to distribute to teachers at Valley View Elementary School.

Each school year the teachers start out with a good supply of tissues to use in the classroom. By this time of year, the supply is dwindling. Please bring full size, no lotion, boxes to church and put them in the shopping cart used for collections.

Thank you for supporting Valley View School.

January Mission Outreach

January 2020

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

United Methodist Traditionalists, Centrists, Progressives & Bishops sign agreement aimed at separation

Editor's Note: This statement is being released by the Council of Bishops Office on behalf of the Mediation Team members. It is reprinted from [umnews.org](https://www.umnews.org). A lengthier article may be found at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan-with-an-accompanying-faq> available at <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/protocol-of-reconciliation-and-grace-through-separation-faq>

Comments by Pastor Carol follow this article.

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 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.

Continued on page 6.

January 2020



Jan. 5 Evelyn & Josh
 Jan. 12 Rylie & Oliver
 Jan. 19 Katelyn & Luke
 Jan. 26 Janea & Evelyn

Youth Group News

January 12 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Meet with Pastor Carol & Dan Baker for class (topic TBD) and fellowship.

January 18 or 19 - Social time with Beth Cameron at a movie. Watch email for details.

January 26 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Meet with Pastor Carol & Dan Baker for class (topic TBD) and fellowship.

JANUARY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Coffee & Treats	Carol Cox	Kathy Soucy	Pat Ekstrom	LaVonne Robinson, Sue Wells
Greeters	Steve & Linda Knopp	Melinda & Joe Matton	Mark & Darlene Wicks	Bob & Barb Deese
Ushers	Scott Swenson, Pat Ekstrom, Steven Johnson, Linda Schesso	Bruce Benson, Beth Cameron, Linda Schesso, Scott Swenson	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Steven Johnson, Terry Wells
Welcomers	Lynn Furda	Neil Anderson	Clint & Barb Andrus	Bob & Barb Deese
Reader	Steve Soucy	Pat Ekstrom	Linda Dicks	Tim Hagerty
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Nathan Peine	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman
Counters	Tom Wellman, Mike Moreland	Dave Smith, Mike Moreland	Tom Wellman, Mike Moreland	Tom Wellman, Darlene Wicks
Communion Stewards	Linda Knopp, Darlene Wicks	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</p> <p>Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden			

Scenes from Christmas



Children's Christmas Program

On December 22, our Children and Youth Sunday School classes presented "A Christmas Story," a collection of readings and songs compiled by Janene Haugen.

Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and Peggy Larson for helping the students prepare. It was a lovely program.



Baptism

Amelia Jeane Fischer was baptized Sunday, December 22. She is the daughter of Steven and Katy Fischer, little sister to Henry, and granddaughter of Vicky Fischer, Jim & JoAnne Fischer, and Mike & Shirley Boyer.

Welcome to the body of Christ, Amelia!



Youth Pancake Fundraiser

After worship on December 22, our Youth Group and their parents hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser. This was a fine time of fellowship and a great fundraiser to help send youth to either camp or a mission trip this summer. Thank you to all who came and supported our youth program here at The PORT.



Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during JANUARY

If you have a birthday during the month of January but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 - Kumba Sheriff | 10 - Jael Medzagoh | |
| 02 - Don Anderson | - Olivia Smith | 24 - Peter Anderson |
| - Kathy Soucy | 12 - Chaz Brobst | 25 - Dale Miller |
| 03 - Viola Mitchell | - Inge Lystad | - Dominick Wells |
| 05 - Jeanne Hansen | 14 - Carol Cox | 26 - Gregory Christensen |
| - Emma Mahre | - Nancy Stinson | 27 - Daniel Wilson |
| 06 - Marilyn Anderson | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson | 28 - Traci Darnell |
| 08 - Megan Mahre | 19 - Neil Livingston | 31 - Linda Dicks |
| 09 - Mason Smith | 22 - Alisa Smith | |



Address Updates

Helen Witt
LuAnn's Place
6666 W 175th Ave
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
(952) 974-0936 house phone
(763) 312-4288 Helen's cell

The PORT's annual All Church Conference will be held Sunday, January 26 following worship. We will review 2019 reports and set the 2020 budget. All are welcome.

Mission Outreach

Human Relations Day - January 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children." The UMC special offering on Human Relations Day helps make an impact in communities where people struggle be-

cause they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Gifts given to this offering specifically support ministries in children's after-school and summer initiatives, gang intervention, at-risk teens, homelessness and housing, older adults, parenting, and substance abuse. A special offering envelope will be provided in your bulletin that day.

United Methodist News, cont.

Continued from page 2.

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.

A livestream event will take place on Monday, January 13, to provide further clarity and explanations of the plan by members of the Mediation Team.

Pastor Carol's response:

Friends, I believe this proposal to be hopeful and positive in moving our denomination beyond the current impasse related to LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the church.

The recommended terms provide clarity around how assets will be handled, while also allowing Annual Conferences to make a decision about where they will align (to remain in the United Methodist Church as an inclusive church, or to align with a new traditionalist branch of Methodism). This proposal appears to lay a foundation to a promising future for all.

The decision about this proposal and many others will be considered at General Conference May 5-15, 2020, so until then we increase our awareness and wait with anticipation while continuing to live into our vision here at The PORT to be a safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor Carol





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Years Day (office closed)	2	3	4
5 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11am-1pm Confirmation	6	7	8 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Meeting 6-8pm Youth Group	13	14 6:00pm Trustees	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 Human Relations Day 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	20 MLK Jr. Day	21	22 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am All Church Conf. 6-8pm Youth Group	27	28 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	29 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am) September - May

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

Open Position (Youth Director)

Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net

Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) jembrm@charter.net

Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

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