

Statement of Support for The United Methodist General Conference

Clergy and members of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Oregon welcome our brothers and sisters in The United Methodist Church as you gather in Portland for your 2016 General Conference. As your denomination gathers to celebrate and discern God's will for you, particularly around questions of human sexuality, we will be holding you in prayer. Episcopalians in Oregon are eager to share our experience of extending a full and unequivocal welcome to those who experience gender and sexual diversity. Our conversations around gender and sexuality – like yours – have not been without much pain and struggle, but we believe that the Spirit of God has brought us to a holy place in which the gifts of all people are being utilized by the church in creative and exciting ways. Our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender clergy are God's gift to the church. Welcoming all people in God's name has strengthened our congregations and made us healthier, more honest, and more vital communities of faith. Extending the sacrament of holy matrimony to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters have been occasions of great joy and celebration: opportunities to bear witness to the depth and breadth of God's expansive love for all people. We believe God has called our church into an evangelistic opportunity: a good word to share with a culture desperate for Christ's healing and wholeness. We invite you to join us in proclaiming this good news of Jesus to a world that desperately needs to hear something more than tolerance: we seek a world in which all people are loved and embraced in Jesus' name, and we commit to holding you in prayer as you engage in discernment around how you will respond to the Spirit's call. We value our relationship with members of The United Methodist Church and commit to continue walking alongside you as together we minister to a hurting world.

Signed:

Rt. Rev. Michael Hanley

The Ven. Beth K Mallon, Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of Oregon

Rev. Thomas J. Buechele, Retired

Rev. Kerlin Richter

Abigail Buckley

Rev. Simon Justice

The Rev. Beth Hoffmann

The Rev. Ann Fontaine

A. Richard Bullock

The Rev. Dcn. Barbara Jo Finch

The Rev. Theresa A Floyd

The Very Rev'd Nathan LeRud

The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver

The Rev. Warren Bradley Toebben

the Rev. Jo A. Miller

Rev. Dan Morrow

Sharon Andrew Hunt

Harriet B Linville

Mary Margaret Benson

Robert L. Ladehoff

Erin Maureen Carr

Marlene Mutchler

Rev. Deacon Kathleen Borsch

Christine R Hertlein +

Rev. Dr. Carlos E. Nunez

The Rev. Anne Moore

Jennifer M. Creswell

The Rev. Canon Robert H. Bryant

Philippa E. Lindwright

The Rev. Dr. Constance A. Hammond

Rev. Carol W. Hull

Tom Hull

The Rev David C Sweeney

Rev. Deacon Mimi Eick

The Rev. Todd Young

The Rev. Harriet B. Linville

The Rev Dr Caroline Litzenberger
The Rev. Dr. Kenneth J Dorsch
The Rev Dr Caroline Litzenberger
Linda Goertz
Renee Pinnick
Rev. Dale R. Carr
D. Rebecca Dinovo
The Rev. Stephen V. Schneider
Charlene MCCreight
The Rev. Sally A. Lambert
The Rev. G.Palmer Pardington III
Edward Albert Rouffy
The Very Rev. Hollinshead T. Knight
The Rev. Dcn. Diane Higgins
The Rev Jeremy Lucas
The Rev. Canon Joseph A. Dubay
Katharine Elizabeth Erskine Hunt
Rev Canon Linda Potter
Thomas L Cartwright
The Rev. Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence
The Rev. Wes Sedlacek
The Rev. Bert A. Anderson, Ph.D.
Robert P Morrison
The Rev, Dcn. Judy S. Likwartz
Susan M. Long
John S Scannell
The Rev. Mary Piper
The Rev. Margaret McMurren
Christine Close Erskine
The Rev. Karen LaJoy Smith
Thomas J Moehl
Christopher Laing
The Rev. Canon Patrick A. Tomter
Alison M Schultz
Martin Elfert
The Rev. Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, Deacon
The Rev. John Gordon Shoemaker
Muller Jorn
The Rev. James Michael Joiner
Andrew Agler