Mike’s Missive

As we are entering into this month of February, on these short cold days of winter, it seems like everything slows down to a crawl; but truly there is a lot going on. We here at Emmanuel have a lot going on. We have some decisions that are going to be made in the near future that are going to need a lot of prayer and trusting in God. I would encourage each and every one of us, as Gods people, to REALLY make this a matter of our everyday prayer as our church is quickly heading into this unknown direction.

I, as your Pastor, feel like that we cannot just stick our head in the sand any longer and need to quit kicking this can down the road. Folks, as the old preacher of yesterday used to say, “If we don’t STAND for something, we will FALL for anything”. I think of the scripture in Isaiah 40:31, “But they who WAIT for the LORD shell renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” And Exodus 14 says this, “Do not be afraid. STAND firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.” So let us move forward here at Emmanuel, with our heads held high and keeping our eyes on Jesus, for we don’t know what tomorrow holds BUT we know who holds tomorrow. My prayer is this: that we stand strong and wait UNITED upon the Lord and if we do that I promise you one thing, that he will never leave us or forsake us. Until next month, may God bless and keep each and every one of us.

PASTOR MIKE

(Please see the bottom of page 5 for more information.)
ALTAR FLOWERS:

Feb. 2 in honor of Ry Smith’s birthday from Dad (Chuck)

Feb. 9 in honor of Jude Isaac and Lee Howe’s birthdays. We love you both from Ray & Tina Howe and Landon Cunningham

Feb. 16 in honor of Cheryl Musser’s birthday from Pastor Mike Musser.

Feb. 23

Mar. 1 in honor of Landon Cunningham’s 10th birthday. We all love you from Grandma & Pap Pap (Ray & Tina Howe)

Mar. 8 in honor of Larry Rupp’s birthday from Sally

Mar. 15

Mar. 22

Mar. 29

Apr. 5 in honor of Rick & Gloria Miller’s anniversary

Apr. 12

Apr. 19 in honor of Lindsey & Jacob Carver’s anniversary. Love you, Grandma & Grandpap (Tina & Ray Howe)

Apr. 26 in honor of Chuck & Carrie Smith’s anniversary

(If a date is blank, please contact Tina Howe if you would like to make a flower dedication for that week.)

GREETERS

Feb. 2 Chuck Smith and Ry

Feb. 9 John & Pat Smith

Feb. 16 Bud, Donna, & Amelia Pettay

Feb. 23 Rick & Gloria Miller

(If a date is blank, please consider volunteering for that date.)

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

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We want you!

We want you to contribute information about your group or ministry to be included in each month’s newsletter to help all of our congregation know about the events of our church family. If you have information or an article to include in the newsletter, please get it to Lisa Shephard by the next-to-last Sunday of each month. Please help our newsletter to be interesting and informative. You can email your submission to lucasvilleemmanuelumc@yahoo.com, leave it on the secretary’s desk in the office, or hand it to Lisa in person—whichever works best for you! Thank you to all of this month’s contributors!
Diverse leaders’ group offers separation plan

By Sam Hodges
Jan. 3, 2020 | UM News

A diverse, 16-member group of United Methodist bishops and other leaders has offered a proposal that would preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination. The separating group would get $25 million in United Methodist funds and would keep its local church properties.

Details are in a nine-page “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation,” released Jan. 3 along with an FAQ and press release.

The proposal — reached with the help of famed mediator Kenneth Feinberg, who worked on the federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund — requires approval by the 2020 General Conference. Drafting of legislation is still underway for the legislative assembly, which is the only body that speaks for the 13 million global denomination.

But given the broad, influential coalition involved — including bishops from around the global connection and advocacy group leaders often sharply at odds — the potential seems strong that the separation proposal can end or at least greatly reduce the denomination’s decades-long struggle over how accepting to be of homosexuality.

New York Conference Bishop Thomas Bickerton, part of the group, said the contentious 2019 special called General Conference in St. Louis underscored intensifying divisions and the need for amicable separation.

“It became clear that the line in the sand had turned into a canyon,” Bickerton said. “The impasse is such that we have come to the realization that we just can’t stay that way any longer.

“This protocol provides a pathway that acknowledges our differences, respects everyone in the process and graciously allows us to continue to live out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, albeit in different expressions.”

The plan looks toward a restructuring of the remaining global United Methodist Church into regions, with flexibility to adapt church policies, including on LGBTQ inclusion.

Meanwhile, traditionalists forming a new denomination could continue what they see as Bible-supported restrictions on same-sex marriage and ordination of gay persons as clergy.

The traditionalist Wesleyan Covenant Association already has taken steps toward forming a new denomination, such as drafting a book of policies and doctrines. Bickerton and the Rev. Keith Boyette, WCA president, said the negotiating team’s assumption is that the new church would emerge out of the WCA.

Boyette was part of the group developing the proposal. He said traditionalists have long felt that divisions in The United Methodist Church were irreparable, and that an amicable separation was the best way forward.

“I believe this is a fair and equitable solution that puts decades of conflict behind us and gives us a hopeful future,” he said.

Also negotiating and signing onto the agreement was Jan Lawrence, executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network, which has long sought to remove restrictions against LGBTQ participation in the denomination.

“As a United Methodist who is LGBTQ, my priority at the table was to make sure we addressed the full participation of LGBTQ people in the life of the church, making sure the answer was not ‘ask us again in 2024,’” she said. “The language needs to be removed now. I am pleased that there is opportunity here for that to happen in 2020.”

The new proposal would allow other United Methodist churches to form their own denominations, while foreseeing ecumenical agreements and cooperation on some fronts.

Representatives of traditionalist, centrist and progressive advocacy groups joined with a handful of bishops from the U.S., Africa, Europe and the Philippines to reach the agreement. They promised to support it and no other.
“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,” said Bishop John Yambasu of Sierra Leone, who last summer began the private talks that led to the proposal.

The group had the help of Feinberg, who oversaw the victims’ compensation funds after 9/11 and the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster.

Feinberg donated his time, as did other lawyers who helped the group.

“(Feinberg) has a deep interest in religion and the preservation of the public witness of religion, and this is what intrigued him and enabled him to say ‘yes’ to us,” Bickerton said. “We are extremely indebted.”

Feinberg called it “an honor and a privilege” to be part of the negotiations.

“As a result of weeks of intense, voluntary mediation in Washington — ably assisted by Richard Godfrey and Wendy Bloom of the distinguished Kirkland & Ellis law firm — and with the intense, direct and ongoing participation of all church representatives, a comprehensive resolution of all issues and principles has been achieved,” he said in a statement.

A clear catalyst for the negotiations was the 2019 General Conference, which saw passage of the Traditional Plan reinforcing restrictions on same-sex weddings and ordination of LGBTQ persons — but also igniting passionate, ongoing resistance in the U.S. by full inclusion supporters.

The tougher enforcement provided by the Traditional Plan went into effect Jan. 1, but the new proposal calls for holding “in abeyance” any administrative or judicial processes related to same-sex weddings or ordination of gay clergy.

“You cannot stop someone from filing a complaint. Neither can you stop someone from requesting a trial,” Bickerton said. “You can hold a complaint in abeyance. That’s our request.”

Key elements of the group’s proposal include:

- The General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church would provide $25 million, over four years, “to the traditionalist Methodist denomination established pursuant to this protocol.” The new denomination would give up further claims to United Methodist assets, including those of general boards and agencies.
- GCFA would escrow $2 million to help other potential new denominations.
- To support communities historically marginalized by racism, GCFA would allocate $39 million over eight years to strengthen Asian, Black, Hispanic-Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander ministries, as well as Africa University. Of that total, $13 million would come from funds the separating traditionalist denomination chose to forgo.
- After the 2020 General Conference, set for May 5-15 in Minneapolis, there would be a special General Conference for the remaining denomination. “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,” said a press release from the negotiating group.
- A (non-U.S.) central conference would be able to choose with a two-thirds vote to affiliate with a new Methodist denomination. The vote deadline would be December 31, 2021, and if no vote is taken the conference remains in The United Methodist Church.
- An annual conference, whether in a central conference or U.S. jurisdictional conference, also could vote to affiliate with a new Methodist denomination. A vote of 20 percent or more at an annual conference session would be needed to have the disaffiliation vote, and a disaffiliation vote would have to pass by 57 percent. The disaffiliation vote deadline is July 1, 2021.
- The leadership body of a local church considering disaffiliation could determine a threshold of a simple majority or two-thirds for the vote on whether to separate. Decisions about disaffiliation must be made by December 31, 2024.
- A local church affiliating with another Methodist denomination “pursuant to the protocol” would keep its assets and liabilities. The pension plans of The United Methodist Church would remain in place for all current clergy and lay employees, even if they affiliate with another Methodist denomination under the protocol.

Though the petition deadline for the 2020 General Conference is months past, church rules allow for special annual conference sessions to consider submitting additional petitions. Bickerton noted that some such sessions are already planned for the weeks ahead.

The General Conference Committee on Reference also can allow late petitions.

(continued on next page)
The group behind the new proposal has asked the Council of Bishops to request that the Judicial Council consider the constitutionality of the still-being-developed legislation before the opening session of the 2020 General Conference.

The group also wants the Council of Bishops to seek a report from GCFA on the financial impacts of the proposal.

The FAQ accompanying the protocol directly addresses post-separation realities:

“The United Methodist Church will be smaller. The church will need to quickly assess the impact of churches leaving and adjust infrastructure and spending accordingly. The long-term solution lies in the broad reform that is needed.”

Various plans for dramatically restructuring or breaking up The United Methodist Church are already headed to the 2020 General Conference, and a range of behind-the-scenes talks about the denomination’s future have been underway.

Yambasu organized a meeting in Chicago on July 19, 2019, that brought central conference bishops together with five representatives each from the traditionalist, centrist and progressive camps.

A smaller group met Aug. 16-17 at Floris United Methodist Church, in Herndon, Virginia, to start the mediated negotiations that led to this new proposal. The group would expand, mostly with bishops, as the process continued.

Key sessions with Feinberg occurred Oct. 17-18, Nov. 11-12 and Dec. 16-17 in Washington.

Council of Bishops President Kenneth Carter was among the far-flung episcopal leaders who joined in discussions and signed the agreement. So did Yambasu from Africa, Bishop Rudy Juan from the Davao Area in the Philippines and Bishop Christian Alsted from the Nordic-Baltic Area in Europe.

Boyette and Patricia Miller represented the coalition of traditionalist groups that includes the WCA, Good News, the Institute on Religion & Democracy and the Confessing Movement. Lawrence, Randall Miller and the Rev. David Meredith were there for Reconciling Ministries Network, Methodist Federation for Social Action and Affirmation, and Meredith is listed in the protocol as a member of the UM Queer Clergy Caucus.

The group noted in its FAQ that participants represented themselves and could not speak "for all of any group." After details were announced, both MFSA and the UM Queer Clergy Caucus stated that their groups were not officially represented in the discussions.


Those in the room consulted with “outer circle” advisers, as well as financial experts.

“The process was a journey,” said Dotson, top executive of Discipleship Ministries. “It was filled with anxious moments. It was filled with moments of hope. I definitely felt the weight of these discussions.”

All of those signing the protocol agreed to support the development and implementation of enacting legislation.

“The fact that we were able to come together from across the world, from across theological spectrums and define an opportunity to collaborate for the sake of the church we all love is a monumental thing,” Bickerton said.

He added: “My hope would be that the delegates to the General Conference would be able to employ that same spirit as they undertake their work in Minneapolis.”

A live-stream panel discussion with members of the Mediation Team will be held on Monday, Jan. 13. Additional details will be provided in the days ahead.

Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News. Kathy L. Gilbert contributed. Contact them at 615-742-5470 or news-desk@umcom.org.

Leadership Meeting  
November 13, 2019

Attendance – Donna Pettay, Melanie Hawk, Dave & Jane Gee, Tim and Lisa Shephard, Mike Deemer Pastor  
Mike and Charnell Landrum

Opening Prayer – Tim Shephard

Secretary Report (Charnell Landrum) Mike Deemer made a motion to accept report. Jane Gee seconded the motion.

Treasurer Report (Jane Gee) Regarding designated funds – Local missions is all inclusive of food pantry, kids meals and holiday boxes. Flower fund has four categories...alter, condolence, special occasion and sunshine/hospital. Finance chair will keep individual totals for giving statements.  The total 2019 district appointments was $1,850.00 and 2019 conference appointments was $11,646.00. Donna Pettay made a motion to approve treasurer report. Pat Smith seconded the motion.

Trustees Report (Mike Deemer) Ralph Noel and Mike inspected parsonage on annual trustee’s report. Fair booth was winterized by John, Andrew, Ralph and Mike Deemer. The back flow device in kitchen was inspected by certified back flow inspector Brian Witter. A new gasket and tank bolts were installed in toilet tank in downstairs ladies bathroom due to leaking. Dave Gee and Mike Deemer installed new light fixture in pastor Mike’s office. A 100 amp breaker in the kitchen was causing power problems in the church. A new one was picked up at Chillicothe by Dave Gee an Mike Deemer. It was changed out on November 13, 2019.

Pastor Report (Mike Musser) Thanks were made for putting light in office. District superintendent signed off conference papers. He has a list of books for upcoming course of study. Classes will start in February and end in March.

PPRC (Pat Smith) Charge conference notes were O.K. Becky Smith mentioned if the time of the meeting could change from 7 pm. to 6 pm. would be great. No one had a problem. Meeting times will change. The historical Society will be having an indoor yard sale on Dec. 6 & 7. Set up will be on Dec. 6. If church would like to put things in yard sale the proceeds will go to the church.

Community Outreach (Donna Pettay) Thanksgiving meals will be handed out on November 22 at 2 pm. 70 meals will be made. Seventeen turkeys at .68 lb. Were purchased at Walmart. New sign-up sheets for meals. One meal per resident. A book is available with list of residents obtaining meals. Sixty lunches were given out. Sheets were made for those who donated.

Finance Chair (Melanie Hawk) Melanie Hawk will be getting with Becky for transition. In January a decision needs to be made whether or not the church participates in Trade Days. Someone needs to attend the health in-service training.

Thanks to Melanie, Mike Deemer and Ray Howe for volunteering their time on the Leadership Committee.  

(submitted by Charnell Landrum)

(Due to not having a December meeting, November’s meeting minutes were not approved until the January meeting.)
Prayer Rock
I’m your little Prayer Rock and this is what I’ll do,
just put me on your pillow till the day is through.
Then pull back the covers and climb into your bed,
and WHACK! Your little Prayer Rock will hit you on your head.
Then you will remember as the day is through
to kneel and say your prayers as you wanted to.
Then when you are finished, just dump me on the floor.
I’ll stay there through the nighttime to give you help once more.
When you get up the next morning, CLUNK! I stub your toe
so you will remember your morning Prayers before you go.
Put me back upon your pillow when your bed is made,
and your clever little Prayer Rock will continue in your aide.
Because your Heavenly Father cares and loves you so,
He wants you to remember to talk to him you know.
Jesus is there for us in all that we do,
Pastor Mike Musser would like everyone to read the Doctrines and Discipline for a new Methodist Church. You may find it here:

https://www.lucasvilleeumc.com/newsletter.html

If you just click the link, above, then click on “Download File”, it should open for you to read on the computer. If you want to print it, you may need to right click on the document. (I didn’t on my computer but Desra Wortman is our webpage designer and she said it may be necessary.)

Anyone without computer access please contact Lisa Shephard and a copy will be printed for you.

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**Jr. Church and Nursery News**

In addition to offering Jr. Church for children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade, we are now offering babysitting in the Nursery during the service, for children any age younger than Kindergarten. The following people have volunteered to help with these ministries:

**Jr. Church**

1st Sunday: Cheryl Musser  
2nd Sunday: Pat Smith  
3rd Sunday: Cyndi Fecher  
4th Sunday: Tina & Ray Howe  
5th Sunday: **Help Needed**

**Nursery**

1st Sunday: John & Cyndi Fecher  
2nd Sunday: Abby and Kelsey Craft  
3rd Sunday: Donna Pettay and **Help Needed**  
4th Sunday: Dwight & Kathy Goins  
5th Sunday: Gloria Miller and **Help Needed**

To volunteer for any of the **Help Needed** times, please contact Pat Smith.

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**Attention Fair Food Booth Workers**

Before the start of Food Booth season, the Ohio Department of Health is now requiring all food service workers to be informed about certain safety procedures and policies. Melanie Hawk and I will be working to develop a short process to satisfy this requirement. It will most likely involve having each Food Booth volunteer read a page or two of information and then signing a form stating that you have been instructed in the safety procedures and policies. We will work to make this as easy and painless as possible while still meeting state guidelines. Please don’t let this discourage you from volunteering. From what I have seen, it shouldn’t take more than 5-10 minutes of your time. I will also copy the material and post it in the booth, so you won’t have to memorize it. You just need to be somewhat familiar with it and know it is there for reference if you need it. We appreciate all our volunteers and welcome new ones. Thank you all for spending your time to help our church keep money in our coffers to enable us to do the Lord’s work.
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February 2020
EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OVER 170 YEARS OF SERVING THE LORD
P.O. BOX 59, 73 SCIOTO STREET
LUCASVILLE, OH 45648
Website - www.lucasvilleumc.com

EMMANUEL’S LIGHT
WORSHIP SERVICE—10:40 AM

MIKE MUSSER, PASTOR
CHURCH OFFICE—740-259-5036

The Emmanuel’s Light is a monthly publication of The Emmanuel United Methodist Church. We welcome any contributions or suggestions for our newsletter. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for content and space.

The deadline is the next-to-last Sunday of each month.
Email submissions to:
lucasvilleemmanuelumc@yahoo.com
or place them on the secretary’s desk.

OFFERING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
OUR MISSION STATEMENT
BEING LOVED BY CHRIST, WE EXTEND HIS LOVE TO OTHERS.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED