

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
All Church Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2018 12:00pm

Opening

Rev. Steve Bibb, Lead Pastor, called the meeting to order at 12:12pm

Opening Prayer offered by Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson, Conference Superintendent

Background and Process

Debbie Givan, leader of Everyone Means Everyone class, outlined the 2 year history of the process of discovery and discernment leading to the motion put forth for a congregational vote. A document outlining the process was distributed.

Emalee Havel, Governance Board Chairperson, explained the process for conducting this All Church Meeting, noting that it was an All Church Meeting and not a Church Conference on the advice of Bishop Julius Trimble. The process was distributed to the congregation one week prior to the meeting via email and public posting at FUMC.

MOTION

Motion made by Debbie Givan

Proposed Welcoming Statement:

We, the people of First United Methodist Church West Lafayette, welcome everyone, through all life's stages, with arms that are open, respectful, and loving. And by everyone, we mean regardless of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, race, ability, bank balance, or background. As a Reconciling Congregation, we welcome you into our church family, for it is by joining hands that we support one another and share our faith journey together. Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

Question to be voted on by FUMC members:

Should FUMC adopt this Welcoming Statement, and be listed with the Reconciling Ministries Network (a listing of LGBTQ+ welcoming congregations)?

Discussion

Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson led the congregation in a unison reading of John Wesley's Guidelines for Christian Conferencing

Speaking in favor of the motion: Tim Delworth, Lynn Griffin

Speaking against the motion: Rev. Dr. J. Philip Klinger, Dan Heman

Rebuttal and clarification: Debbie Givan

Vote and Congregational Hymn Sing

Vote conducted by ballot and counted by three pre-determined tellers.

Announcement of Result

Emalee Havel reported the outcome of the vote:

172 members voting

27 against

145 in favor

84% of votes in favor

Motion approved.

Closing

Closing Prayer by Rev. Steve Bibb

Meeting Adjourned at 1:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Hull, Secretary