

Congregational Vote on Reconciling Statement Scheduled for Sunday, June 1 Church Council Strongly Endorses the Statement



For the last several months, Metropolitan Memorial has been engaged in a church-wide conversation on the issue of homosexuality and the church that has included preaching, teaching, discussion, prayer, and discernment. Through this process, the Advocacy Ministry team has encouraged the adoption of a reconciling statement declaring our church in support of the full participation of all persons in the life of the church regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Metropolitan Memorial's Church Council voted on May 5 to forward the question of whether or not to adopt a reconciling statement to a congregational vote that will occur on Sunday, June 1. The proposal comes before the congregation with the Council's strong endorsement, and the congregational vote will allow all church members to have a say in this decision. By a vote of 25 to 1, the Council recommends that the congregation adopt the proposed statement.

Background

Current denominational policies preclude the full participation of homosexual persons in the life of the church. Currently, our discipline: 1) states that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian teaching; 2) prohibits the celebration of homosexual unions by United Methodist ministers or in United Methodist churches; 3) prohibits the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals; and 4) gives pastors the discretion to exclude homosexuals from church membership. In opposition to these policies, the reconciling movement seeks to welcome all persons in the church, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered persons and advocates for their full inclusion in all aspects of church life.

Proposed Action

The Church Council recommends that Metropolitan Memorial adopt the following statement:

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church affirms that all individuals are of sacred worth without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, education, marital circumstances, economic status, education, physical and mental condition, or criminal history. We declare ourselves in support of the reconciling movement and welcome the full participation in the church of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered persons and their families, as a reflection of God's unconditional love. At the same time, we recognize differences of opinion on issues of sexuality and seek to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

Congregational Discussion and Vote on Sunday, June 1

Two sessions will be held on Sunday, June 1, in the Great Hall from 10:10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. During these sessions, church members will have the opportunity to ask questions about this proposal and express opinions. Voting will occur by paper ballot. Ballots can be cast at anytime during either of these two sessions. All full, associate, and affiliate members are eligible to participate in the vote. We hope as many members as possible will participate in this important decision.

Our Community

Children's Items Sought for Nicaraguan Mission

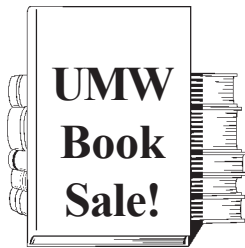
In June, Metropolitan Memorial will send a VIM team of 12 to Nicaragua, where they will work in partnership with United Methodist missionaries Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mariena. The team will be working to help renovate a school building in Masaya, a historic city south of the capital. They will also be working in conjunction with several community organizations and Christian based communities.

Members of the congregation are invited to contribute the following items that have been requested by the VIM team's Nicaraguan hosts:

- School supplies - pencils, pens, crayons, etc (not paper)
- Early childhood toys for preschoolers
- Spanish-language children's books
- Children's summer clothing
- Sports equipment – soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs

A collection box is located in the Great Hall foyer. Please bring donations by Sunday, June 8.

You can also support the mission with a monetary contribution. Make your check out to **MMUMC** and put "Nicaragua VIM" in the memo line.



Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Come to the UMW book sale at Metropolitan! Browse through gently used novels, and cookbooks, and many other genres including politics, foreign language, art, crafts, children's, vintage, coffee table, how-to's, self-help, holiday, biography, videos, CDs and more!

Have books to donate? If you have books to donate, please don't put it off. Bring them to the UMW closet any time up until and including June 3. We also need volunteers (sorting takes place June 4, 5, and 6)! The time is up to you, but make arrangements with Ann Cochran. Contact Ann as soon as possible about volunteering to set up or work at the sale, at ann@annpcochran.com. Sponsored by United Methodist Women. Proceeds benefit needy women and children locally and globally.

With Sympathy

- We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of Martha Hickman, upon her death on May 1.
- We extend our sympathies and prayers to the family of Mary Reppert, upon her death on May 3.



Our congregation owes a great deal of thanks to Susan Elliott for all the work that she does landscaping our church grounds. If you see Susan please offer your thanks to her! If you are interested in helping with the landscaping please contact Susan at overlookzoo@verizon.net.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Jeff Clouser who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Georgetown University on May 17. Jeffrey, our Database Administrator, has worked hard and we celebrate his achievement of receiving his BA in Classical Civilization!

Happy Birthday!!

...to those born in May!*

If your birthday is missing, please contact the church office, 202.363.4900 and let us know your date of birth.

Femi Ayotunde	5/17	Anna Rajendran	5/24
Andrew Cox	5/17	Eric Alexander	5/25
Brian Gill	5/17	Courtney Chambers	5/25
Corbett McClure	5/17	Katherine Fabian	5/25
Jess McIntosh	5/18	Michael Fortier	5/26
Alexis Poitras	5/18	Julia Whittle	5/26
Cynthia Stroud	5/18	Debra Leonard	5/27
Lydia Klick	5/19	Christopher Vaughn	5/27
Jennifer Lobb	5/19	Caleb Carr	5/28
Andrea Wood	5/19	Brennan Gosnell	5/28
Lloyd Biscomb	5/20	Connor Hanley	5/28
Martina Melliand	5/20	William Owens	5/28
Craig Scherer	5/21	Yolanda Augustine	5/29
Cheri Carper	5/22	Alyce McKelvy	5/29
Andrew Kopca	5/22	Norman Amtower	5/30
Martha Brame	5/23	Catherine Atwood	5/30
Katie Guindon	5/23	Colin Gray	5/30
Ruth Johnson	5/23	Jane Leonard	5/30
Kathleen Mayo	5/23	Alexander Fishman	5/31
Julia Parker	5/23	Kevin Grosicki	5/31
Ann B. Veatch	5/23	Cameron Hershey	5/31
Vicki L. Hop	5/24	Stephen Hurlbut	5/31
Paul Jones	5/24	Stacey Lampman	5/31
Donald McLeod	5/24	Elizabeth Smith	5/31

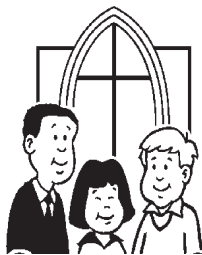
*May's birthdays continued from the last *Messenger*

Children's Ministry

Children's Celebration Sunday

Sunday, June 1

We hope to see all of you on Sunday, June 1, for a very special Sunday. Our graduating sixth graders will each share a personal reflection during the sermon time, the children will lead us in prayer and song, and three second grade Brownie Scouts will complete the God-And-Me ceremony during the worship services.



Children involved in the service will need to arrive by 8 a.m. on June 1 and choir members will meet with Mrs. Settlage and Ms. Cartwright at 8:25 a.m. Readers will also rehearse on May 18 and May 25 during the study hour in the sanctuary, so PLEASE be sure to be at church for the next few Sundays if you have volunteered to read during the services on June 1.

June 1 is also the final day of our regular Sunday school year and each class is hosting a party – be sure to ask your teachers how you can participate in the class party...bringing in treats or feast, or simply joining in on the fun. Summer Sunday school starts the following Sunday, June 8!



Summer Sunday School

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Jesus is coming to Summer Sunday School at MMUMC! Come join the fun and learn about the greatest story-tellin' man in history! There will be music, crafts, dancing, games, and more! And there's going to be a musical! So mark your calendars now for Summer Sunday School.

We will have choir throughout the month of June and Sunday School in June during the study hour. In July and August, while we worship together at the single 10 a.m. service, we will meet from 10:15 a.m., following the Children's Sermon, until 11 a.m.

Parents and Friends, we need your help too! If you are interested in volunteering to help, contact Douglass Anne at dac@gwu.edu. See you this summer!

Pictures from our Nursery School Mother's Day Concert held on May 9



If you have questions about any of these events or programs, please contact our Children's Ministry Director, Kay Jacobi at 202.363.4900, ext. 26 or kjacobi@mmumc-dc.org.