

To the Congregation of St. Andrew United Methodist Church

Yesterday in St. Louis the General Conference of the United Methodist Church by a vote of 438 to 384 adopted the Traditional Plan. This plan retains the current official position of the Church banning clergy from performing same sex marriages and not allowing self-avowed practicing homosexuals to be ordained. From here we have to wait and see what the exact wording will be because some of the amendments made are in question regarding their constitutionality.

Today there are those who are pleased with the outcome of General Conference, but there are also many who are hurt and disappointed. No one can say for certain what all this will mean for the future of the United Methodist Church. But for us, we are still the church. We are the same people we were before the vote was ever taken. It is my sincere prayer that we, the members and friends of St. Andrew will always love each other and that the same warm welcome to all people will always represent who we are.

This is truly a time when much prayer is needed. I urge all of us to be in prayer for each other and those we hope to reach for Christ. There are still people who need the Lord. We still have children to read to and children to minister to in our LOGOS program. There are still people who are hungry and need warm clothing and they need us. If ever there was a time to be the church it is now.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ed