



Dear friends in Christ,

My heart breaks at the news from the United Methodist Church, whose world-wide convention yesterday voted to reaffirm current church policy stating that “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” This effectively means a ban on same-sex marriage and gay and lesbian clergy. For queer friends in the UMC and elsewhere, this is a yet another assault on their dignity and barrier to their calling to live fully into the ministries and relationships for which God has created them. The whole Body of Christ is wounded when such a ruling is made in any of its parts. This is a day for lament and for solidarity with all LBGTQA+ people who seek to live into their baptisms, just as all other Christians do.

Let those of us who are Episcopalians remember that, although ECUSA has moved to a more progressive place on LBGTQA+ inclusion, we still have lots of work to do, within our parishes and within our hearts. And certainly at the global level, Anglicans are still fractured around these issues and the exclusions continue to inflict harm. This is not a time for feeling superior in any way or recruiting Methodists to our ranks, but for listening, prayer, solidarity with those who have been hurt, and self-examination. [Here](#) is a good essay with helpful guidance.

As we turn toward Lent, we turn and turn and turn again to Christ. Let us bring our anger, hope, fear, determination, and everything else on our hearts, and turn side-by-side - queer and straight – to seek Christ’s wisdom, healing, grace and gifts.

Faithfully,

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