TODAY

Marriage Equality Resolution Churchwide Vote
Professing members of this congregation will vote on the marriage equality resolution at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

STATEMENT FROM THE PASTORS

Over the last two months, the “Moving Forward” Task Force has developed a resolution to welcome all couples for marriage at FUMC. On Sunday, May 19, the Administrative Board unanimously recommended the resolution to the congregation for a churchwide vote.

When FUMC took on a marriage discernment process in 2017, we were hopeful that a policy change would come through the work of the Commission on the Way Forward and the called session of General Conference in February 2019; we thought it was only a matter of time, and so we supported a policy that would treat all couples equally without violating The Book of Discipline. We remained hopeful for change in the denomination; while the One Church Plan did not match our full hopes for an inclusive church, it was a significant step in the right direction that would have allowed us to proceed with the ministry of weddings for all couples.

Unfortunately, the One Church Plan failed, and the Traditional Plan passed at General Conference in February. The Traditional Plan is meant to use draconian enforcement to discourage clergy from violating church rules against same-sex marriage; instead, it has served to clarify our call to stand up for what we believe is right, even—especially—in the face of that enforcement. For the clergy at FUMC, this moment in our denominational life has helped us identify our privilege: we serve a congregation that supports full inclusion, where we can proclaim loud and clear that God calls us to celebrate the marriages and ministries of LGBTQ people. It is incumbent on us to use our privilege to create change, even though it comes with risk. The risk to us pales in comparison to the harm that the church has inflicted upon generations of LGBTQ persons.

As we move forward, a few points of clarity: First, the passage of a resolution is the work of the congregation; not the Pastors. This resolution marks the commitment of FUMC to provide space and support for all weddings; it does not bind the Pastors to perform all weddings. Because of this, the resolution itself does not violate The Book of Discipline. If the pastors choose to allow or perform a same-sex wedding, we could face a complaint that could lead to charges. Those charges will be a result of our decision to allow/perform the wedding, not a result of FUMC’s resolution. We understand this risk and its potential consequences, but we believe it is time to face those head-on. Finally, our greatest hope is to minister faithfully to all we serve. Any wedding we perform should be about the couple, not about the clergy. We simply intend and hope to go about our work faithfully and serve God by serving those with whom we are in ministry.

With great love,
Pastor Taylor and Pastor Cathy

MARRIAGE EQUALITY RESOLUTION

The marriage subcommittee of the Task Force quickly found consensus on the following points, which it and the full Task Force recommend to the Administrative Board and members of First United Methodist Church of Austin:

• That First United Methodist Church of Austin affirm its commitment to treat all couples, whether opposite-sex or same-sex, seeking the blessing of marriage equally;

• That the Sanctuary and facilities of First United Methodist Church of Austin thus be available to all couples on an equal basis for weddings, regardless of the sexual orientation of the couple;

• That clergy assigned to serve First United Methodist Church of Austin retain their traditional authority to determine the fitness of any couple to enter into marriage and to discern whether to officiate any marriage; and

• That the members of First United Methodist Church of Austin affirm their intent to support any of our pastors who are suspended for responding to a call to officiate a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple, including continuing to provide their then-current salaries and related benefits for the period of any suspension and to pay costs attendant to any church trial for a charge of violating The Book of Discipline by performing that marriage ceremony.

To view the full Marriage Equality Resolution visit, fumcaustin.org/marriageequality.
United Methodists believe each of us is called to participate in the outreaching ministry of Jesus Christ. John Wesley described this work in simple, practical terms: “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.” Here are ways you can do good, in a variety of places, with many different people this summer. All are family friendly, except when otherwise noted. Sign up is required for all events at fumcaustin.org/summer.

TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Prayerfully consider how you can support our children and youth. We give our regular teachers the summer off, which gives parents and other members a wonderful opportunity to teach and build relationships with these young disciples. Curriculum is provided and classrooms are prepared. Caution: the more you serve, the more fun you have!

**JULY**

**JULY 19** 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday** Help us transform our Sanctuary and hallways for VBS: Mars and Beyond! We gather to paint, cut, and assemble decorations. Whether or not you consider yourself creative, we have a job for you! Childcare available.

**JULY 20** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday** Help us transform our Sanctuary and hallways for VBS: Mars and Beyond! We gather to paint, cut, and assemble decorations. Whether or not you consider yourself creative, we have a job for you! Childcare available.

**JULY 21** 4:00-6:30 p.m. **Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday** MLF serves daily, but this monthly third Sunday is for first-time families and individuals who want to try face-to-face service with experienced volunteers.

**JULY 22-25** 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Volunteering** For a safe and fun VBS, we need over 50 adult and youth volunteers! To sign up, you will first need to fill out a one-time profile form in our volunteer management platform at fumcaustin.org/vsp. Once submitted, you will receive a login and then you can view available jobs and signups. If you have already created your profile, you can access it at fumcaustin.org/vbsvolunteers.

**JULY 23** 4:45-7:00 a.m. **Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast (Adults, College, Youth)** FUMC serves at this twice weekly breakfast on the 4th Tuesday. Prepare and serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors working in shifts starting at 4:45 a.m. and ending by 7:00 a.m. Without our regular supply of UT student volunteers, we need extra help during the summer. Training provided.

**JULY 26** 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Vacation Bible School (VBS) Workday** Help take down decorations from VBS. Childcare provided and we will go to lunch at Central Market on Lamar and 38th Street afterwards.

**AUGUST**

**AUGUST 7** 8:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Caritas Community Kitchen** FUMC adults and youth (12+) are invited to serve in the Community Kitchen at Caritas.

**AUGUST 18** 4:00-6:30 p.m. **Mobile Loaves & Fishes (MLF) 3rd Sunday** MLF serves daily, but this monthly third Sunday is for first-time families and individuals who want to try face-to-face service with experienced volunteers.

**AUGUST 27** 4:45-7:00 a.m. **Feed My People 4th Tuesday Breakfast (Adults, College, Youth)** FUMC serves at this twice weekly breakfast on the 4th Tuesday. Prepare and serve breakfast to 300 of our homeless neighbors working in shifts starting at 4:45 a.m. and ending by 7:00 a.m. Without our regular supply of UT student volunteers, we need extra help during the summer. Training provided.