



## Connecting People. Cultivating Faith. Celebrating Community

**Rev. Bradley J. Wheeler, Lead Pastor**

July 16, 2019

Dear Bishop Saenz,

Louisburg United Methodist Church is a church of diverse political and social views. We are not of one mind regarding LGBTQ persons, especially in terms of ordination and marriage. However, we are of one mind when it comes to being an inclusive church.

Louisburg United Methodist Church refuses to allow the current debate going on throughout the world-wide United Methodist Church to separate or divide our witness for Jesus Christ to the community of Louisburg and to the world.

Louisburg United Methodist Church believes that the Traditionalist Plan that passed at the 2019 General Conference is a divisive, exclusive plan that separates and alienates people. Our church cannot support a plan that creates winners and losers when the witness of Jesus Christ is for everyone.

Since the passage of the traditional plan in February, our church is deeply concerned about the ramifications of the passing of this plan. We are especially troubled by the possibility of church trials that might come about based upon the financial and spiritual consequences of such action. We believe that a church trial while the United Methodist Church is living into a divided future, would cause more pain and separation.

Therefore, if anyone in the Great Plains conference is put on church trial surrounding LGBTQ matters, Louisburg United Methodist Church will withhold all mission shares moving forward.

The Louisburg United Methodist Church Leadership Board