



SAN FRANCISCO AREA • CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop

Laura Roberson
Executive Assistant to the Bishop

June 15, 2012

Rob Renfroe, President and Publisher
Good News Magazine
P.O. Box 132076
The Woodlands, TX 77393

Patricia Miller, Executive Director
The Confessing Movement within
The United Methodist Church
7995 East 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for communicating with me. I am happy to have this opportunity to respond to your concerns.

First of all, I had no prior knowledge of the content of Bishop Talbert's statement. Furthermore, Bishop Talbert clearly stated that his comments were his own and did not represent the Council of Bishops or the bishops present at the luncheon. You will need to discuss the meaning and intent of his statement with him.

As for where I stand, I fully support the position taken by the Council of Bishops and affirmed in our pastoral letter.

I will administer all disciplinary processes with integrity and fairness, in the future, as I have in the past.

I also will act consistent with my understanding of scripture and in the spirit of our Social Principles which affirm, "That all persons are individuals of sacred worth created in the image of God".

With regard to this issue the Social Principles also states, "We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warner H. Brown, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop

WHB/lrr

Hard copy to follow