



Love Prevails

revolution 3-D: disclose(t), divest, disrupt

Press Release

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Love Prevails grew out of Love On Trial, a support team for Rev. Amy DeLong during her trial by the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church (UMC). In light of 40 years of intentional and increasing discrimination against LGBTQIA+ persons, the first action of Love Prevails was to give direction to an interruption of the 2012 General Conference of the UMC and demand a change in the agenda, so no further legislation regarding human sexuality would come before the body.

Over the following years, Love Prevails witnessed through direct-action with Bishops, Boards, and Commissions of the UMC. It enabled the first public discussion of human sexuality at the highest level of the church, the Connectional Table, and stimulated them to pass a motion to remove the denomination's "incompatibility" clause (a motion never acted upon). Love Prevails received a confession from the Board of Discipleship Ministries that they had self-censored positive publications about LGBTQIA+ persons. The more Love Prevails was with the Council of Bishops, the longer their executive sessions became. Witness was made to the inadequacy of LGBTQIA+ presence at tables where decisions about them were being made, and Love Prevails was barred from United Methodist buildings during those meetings. Public letters analyzing the state of the UMC were periodically written and publicized through social media (loveprevailsumc.com and facebook.com/loveprevailsumc)

The UMC continues to divide itself with individuals and congregations leaving the denomination over a seemingly intractable divide – how to connect spirituality and sexuality with clarity about their blessings and limits. The teaching and prophetic functions of the Council of Bishops continue to avoid dealing with the current hurtful "Methods" institutionalized in current processes and procedures. Leaders in the UMC continue its colonizing past by failing to say "No," to those intolerant of variation within humanity and are left waffling about how many and where it is permissible to harm particular peoples.

Love Prevails has decided the time has come to depart from the UMC. The accompanying Open Letter describes this decision.

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