

Good News Finds Present UM Situation “Untenable”

At their board meeting ending March 28, 2014, Good News staff and board members discussed at length the present reality: many of our bishops are unwilling to enforce *The Book of Discipline* and the covenant we have agreed to live by. Widespread disregard of that covenant, the will of General Conference, and the Council’s own promise in 2011 to uphold the *Book of Discipline* demonstrates the deep division and conflicting worldviews existing within The United Methodist Church.

We see the present situation as untenable. We are aware of conversations taking place among leading pastors and other groups around the country to examine what options are available for those of us who are biblical Christians and who have agreed to live by *The Book of Discipline*. Those options include sweeping reform of the church or the creation of a different kind of future. If we are one church, we cannot act as if we are two. If in reality we are two churches, it may not be wise to pretend any longer that we are one. Many are discussing the wisdom of churches continuing to fund a denomination that is unwilling to live by its policies and whose chief officers do not enforce its beliefs. Some have already curtailed their financial support in protest. Concrete and dramatic actions are likely to come out of those conversations in the next few months.

The Good News board and staff request prayer for The United Methodist Church in the midst of the present crisis. May God grant us wisdom in finding a way forward that would preserve the church’s commitment to Scripture and United Methodist doctrine. And may we treat one another with grace and respect as we seek to create a faithful future.

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