

To all leaders and members of Bellevue Eastside PFLAG

Over the last week you may have seen that the United Methodist Church approved new legislation which increases penalties for churches and pastors who support the LGBTQ community, moving backward toward discrimination. We are disgusted by these actions of the global United Methodist Church. The decisions made by the greater UMC in St. Louis harm LGBTQ persons and are not based on the teachings of Jesus as we know them: to love our neighbor and to care for those on the margins.

We want you to know that we are not changing. We are not going anywhere. We are staying and fighting, for our church and our LGBTQ friends and family members, both known and unknown. We are committed to being a home for all God's people.

We share the pain of LGBTQ persons who are in despair over the actions taken. We want them to know we see them and will walk alongside them until there is no more discrimination. Please let us know how we can help.

There is a strong coalition of Methodist churches across the US working toward a different ending. Something new is going to come from all of this and we hope you are with us for the celebration of a more just and loving world.

Thank you. Please feel free to share this letter and/or information with anyone who is interested.

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