

HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

10/02/2019

PLEASE find ALL of the church announcements and happenings on the website: <https://cpfumc.org>

Sunday Worship times 8:30a & 10:45a

World Wide Communion Sunday

If you prefer NOT to receive these Happenings each Wednesday, please reply and let us know that.

OCT. 13TH

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING !!

5PM

*Loving God, please grant me **peace** of mind and calm my troubled heart. ... Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out for me. I trust your Love God, and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night. Amen.*

PRAYERS *for Help and Healing* :

Recent Requests for Prayers:

Linda Howard, Steve's wife, "A quick update. Linda's doing about as well as can be expected. She's still in ICU. They are weaning her off the ventilator and that seems to be going well. Her tongue is very swollen so she cannot speak. I expect she will be in ICU another day or so....".

Susan, Sally Johnson's sister, unreachable by phone, struggling with life

Eric, Lisa Feazell's brother, needing inner peace & a new career

Carol Slater, fell and broke vertebrae .. now home gaining strength

Myrl McKellar now at The Pointe, 450 Discovery Blvd Cedar Park, TX 78613 Loves visits !!

Mary Linda Verastegui, fell & broke pelvis, now at The Springs Healthcare & Rehab Rm 301

Clara Crank, getting stronger after serious infection ...

Shelly Blanda, RN, Sterlings granddaughter, working 6a-6p then home to care for 4 children & husband

Joe Miller, father of Jozi's friend, beginning treatment for brain tumor

Aunt Ines (Alzheimers) & Aunt Juana (died yesterday-14th) from Edna Sota

Pattie Hartman, Sterling's sister-in-law & caregiver to Marilyn, just diagnosed with kidney cancer-stage 1, robotic surgery. overnite in hospital home the next morning.

Gonzalo Herrera, brother of Sergio's friend, has been diagnosed with lymph node cancer & prostate cancer.

He will begin treatment and we ask for full recovery.

Diana Longoria, Sergio's mom, fell & hurt her knee two weeks ago. Still swollen and with pain.

Cynthia, Sergio's sister, seems to have left the faith (possibly never had it), as a result her marriage and life is in serious turmoil. We ask that she returns to God and follows Him for the renewal of her life "

PRAYERS *of THANKS!!* :

THANKS

For all of the wonderful hygiene supplies that were taken to the border for the Immigrants waiting there for asylum. Many kits were made and supplies shared.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, October 2nd

9-11a Literacy Partner Training,

1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

THURSDAY, October 3rd

10am ** Revelation @Maple Ridge **

FRIDAY, October 4th

9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek

10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee

SATURDAY, October 5th

Fall Bazaar at Leander UMC – supporting UMW mission work

9a-1p Congregation Work Day

SUNDAY, October 6th World Wide Communion

8:30a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion,

9:45a Sunday School for all ages

10:45a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion.

The congregation is invited to consecrate the Eagle Pass Mission Team

Noon CHOIR Practice

Noon YES YOUTH

MONDAY, October 7th Monday Moanings for youth

2:30p ESL / GED

6:30p TRUSTEES

7:30-9p Centering Prayer

** See More Information Below

TUESDAY, October 8th
 9:30a Morning Worship
 10:00a Bible Study
 11:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry
WEDNESDAY, October 9th
 1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

LOOKING FORWARD !!

Thur Oct 10th 10am Revelation @Maple Ridge
 Sat/Tues Oct 12-15th Youth Mission Trip
 Sat Oct 12th 9am UMW
 Sun Oct 13 noon NO Youth
 Sun Oct 13 5pm **PUMPKINS !!**
 Mon Oct 14th 6:30 FINANCE
 Wed Oct 16th 9:30a Membership Care
 Thur Oct 17th 10am Revelation @Maple Ridge
 Thur Oct 17th 6:30p Red Bench "Forgiveness"

Fri Oct 18th NEWSLETTER Input
 Sat Oct 19th 5pm Empower
 Sun Oct 20th noon Youth
 Mon Oct 21st 6:30 CHURCH COUNCIL
 Thur Oct 24th 10am Revelation @Maple Ridge
 Sun Oct 27 noon Youth
 Sun Oct 27 3pm Soul Lift Worship
 Thur Oct 31st 10am Revelation @Maple Ridge
 Wed Oct 30th 11:30a Young @ Heart

Please Check the complete calendar at <https://cpfumc.org/>

OCT. 13TH THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING !! 5PM

REMEMBER:



**CONGREGATION FALL WORK DAY
SATURDAY, OCT 5TH, 9AM-12NOON**

or at a time of your convenience!

Sign Up Here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W7CQbgO7Eeg67MnFTvG1_os6za-ZoSz1xyX1Qrg2rc/edit?usp=sharing

SAT. OCT 5TH CONGREGATION WORK DAY

Twice a year in the spring and fall, the Trustees of our church sponsor a Work Day. Work Days are an opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to help out with chores and tasks associated with our buildings and property. This year we will also be setting up the tents, pallets and lights for our Pumpkin Patch. The Fall 2019 Congregation Work Day will be on Saturday, October 5, from 9am until noon. There will be a list of tasks available in late September and posted in the Narthex. Please help out as you can by volunteering for a task and completing it at a time convenient to you. You don't have to be there on Saturday, October 5 to volunteer for a task.

If you have any questions about the Work Day, please contact Neil Howard, nhowardtx@gmail.com or any member of the Trustees.

CALL TO ACTION BACKPACKS FOR WHITESTONE ELEMENTARY LUNCHES NEEDED

EACH WEEK: We will prepare 6 backpacks per week

The shelves are "empty" on lunch items,

Needed: Lunches like: Mac n Cheese, Ravioli, Cup a Soup; Milk, fruit, veggies,

REMEMBER TIMES 6: Two Breakfasts Two Lunches Two Dinners Four Snacks

NOW !! DINNER TABLES FOR ALL



Do I Know You?

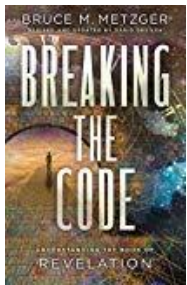
Do You Know Me?

I invite you to sign up for **Tables for All**. Once each quarter you will be paired with a group of about six people, have dinner, and talk. There is no lesson plan, no studying, no test afterward, just good food and conversation.

Let's Get To Know Each Other? SIGN UP TODAY.

Please complete the green signup form on the back table of the sanctuary and place in the collection plate. Soon you will receive a call or email from your host to plan the dinner. You will be asked to bring a dish. If you don't cook, no worries, the store-bought items are also very tasty.

THUR OCT 3RD FALL BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION 10AM-11:30AM



Third of Seven-session Bible study led by Pastor Peter at Maple Ridge Retirement Center (1531 Juliette Way)
 Guidebook is "**Breaking the Code**" by Bruce M Metzger
 The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible?
 In this book Metzger presents solid scholarship in a nonacademic style.

SEPTEMBER CHOIR RESUME PRACTICE

We have started practicing Sundays after second service for Advent and Christmas - see you there.
PRACTICE - after second service unless noted otherwise:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Oct. 6th - PRACTICE | Nov. 10th - PRACTICE & SING TFWS at second service |
| Oct. 13th - NO PRACTICE - I'm in Detroit with Sab | Nov. 17th - PRACTICE & SING at second service |
| Oct. 20th - PRACTICE & should be ready to SING a hymn here during second service | Nov. 24th - NO PRACTICE seeing Audrey in London |
| Oct. 27th - PRACTICE | Dec. 1st - NO PRACTICE still in London |
| Nov. 3rd - PRACTICE & SING something at second service | Dec. 8th - PRACTICE & SING during service |
| | Dec. 15th - SING at both services |
| | Dec. 22nd - SING at second service |
| | Dec. 29th - NO PRACTICE |
| | Jan. 5th - SING at second service |

OCT. 6TH YOUTH FALL SCHEDULE!

- Mark your calendars and make plans to join in!
- SATURDAY, OCT 5th:** church work day 9-noon YOUTH are assigned painting the shed. We might possibly have our trailer for mission trips which we will need to load then as well. We will also start building benches to sell for YOUTH fundraising for mission trips and for HOLY LAND trip.
- SUNDAY, OCT 6th:** YOUTH lunch, worship then collecting food for the food pantry in the neighborhood. We will walk in the neighborhood, knocking on doors asking for food items while handing out flyers about the church and pumpkin patch.
- SATURDAY OCT 12-15th MISSION TRIP EAGLE PASS:** join us for a short 3 day mission trip to the border to assist Mission Border Hope, a long running mission group in Eagle Pass. We will do home repairs and assist at the shelter sorting supplies. We leave Saturday morning and return early Tuesday afternoon so you have the rest of the day to do what you need to do. This is open to parents as well as youth. Never mission tripped before - this is a great first go. Cost is \$75 person. Please RSVP ASAP so I can arrange sleeping/food/work etc.
- Sunday Oct 13th - NO YOUTH** at CPFUMC
- FRIDAY Oct 18th: Christian Concert with Michael W. Smith. 10 tickets/6 confirmed - let me know if you want to join ASAP**

Volunteer to furnish lunch for the YOUTH ... Sign Up on list on back table in sanctuary....

UpComing: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

SAT, OCT 12TH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) HTTP://WWW.UMWRIOTEXAS.ORG

• NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 12th !! ALL women are welcome to join us in the library @ 9

OCT. 13TH THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING !! 5PM

YES! The pumpkins for our 2019 Pumpkin Patch are scheduled to arrive on 10/13 at 5PM
 We need all the help we can get to unload the truck and get the pumpkin patch set up
 The patch will open for business on Monday 10/14.
Weekday shifts 2:30-5:00 & 5:00-7:30. **Weekend** shifts: 12:00-2:30 & 2:30-5:00 & 5:00-7:30

3 ways to sign up to volunteer ; **(1)** the CPFUMC web site has a button you can click on and that will take you to the signup.com site **(2)** via Facebook , which will also take you to the signup.com web site **(3)** paper & pencil version in Narthex to use to sign up for those who choose not to use a computer.

Thank you, in advance, for volunteering on this very important Church Community Building event.

THURS, OCT. 17TH CEDAR PARK/HILL COUNTRY RED BENCH: FORGIVENESS

Please join the Cedar Park/Hill Country Passport Program for a Red Bench conversation on the topic of "Forgiveness" on Thursday, October 17, 2019 from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Islamic Center of Brushy Creek (1950 Brushy Creek Rd, Cedar Park, TX 78613). Parking is available on the premises and a light vegetarian meal will be served.

SAT, OCT 19 EMPOWER CHILDREN

We worship, play, share good snacks and close with a movie. Our goal is to assist children in developing their gifts to become loving individuals, helping others, and serving God. Have you discovered your talents? . Come join the Jesus Rock Stars to embrace your talents at our semi-annual EMPOWER mini lock-in events. Check our calendar in the spring and fall for the dates. The next Empower mini lock-in is planned for Saturday, **October 19, 2019 at 5 pm**. Please register no later than October 15th.

September 2019 INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY! A

Month to Date Finances		This Week's Attendance	
		<u>September 29TH</u>	
Anticipated expenses	\$ 21,865.	8:30am	23(Visitors 3)
Contributions (5/5) Sundays	\$ 17,681.		
Still Needed:	\$ 4,184.	10:45am	67(Visitors:9)
Additional Giving			
\$2 For 20	\$ 254.		
True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 67.	Sunday School	
Communion (Ntombo)	\$ 462.	Children: 16	
UMW Toiletries	\$ 50.	Adults: 34	
UMCOR Disaster Relief	\$ 125.		
Sanctuary Remodel	\$ 105.	Youth Group	12
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 1725.	Soul Lift (9/22)	7

THIS LITTLE CHURCH IS A "MIGHTY" LITTLE CHURCH



Our Stewardship Ideas Committee was charged with coming up with a Narrative Budget. So instead of showing the Congregation where we spent the money using Excel Spreadsheets (six pages of ten-point font spread across every inch of the 8.5"x14" paper), we took the notion literally. First, we took the budget line items and alphabetized them. We attributed each number associated with the item as a percentage of total budget making the tiniest slices of budget imaginable. They were all there and then some – at one point we had 104% of budget. One team member even said, "if this is just another way to show a spreadsheet, I'd rather see the numbers." *More discussion followed.*

ON-GOING HAPPENINGS !!

MORE!!! YOUTH FALL SCHEDULE

PLANNING fundraising for HOLY LAND Trip.
NEED GIFT CARDS and OTHER EASILY MAILED items for ON-LINE SILENT AUCTION to run the month of November.
 ALL monies will go towards HOLY LAND trip. Right now, I am still researching the trip options but it will run about \$2-3,000 per person. We do not want anyone excluded from going due to cost therefore we are raising funds as a group to help off set the cost. The trip is 2 years from now. yes those who graduate between now and then can go with us. Yes, family members may also go. Yes, we will have a meeting just for the trip once I finalize the details. **BUT FOR**

NOW we must begin to raise funds from beyond the church family hence the on-line auction. Please ask businesses for donation cards or just pick up gift cards at Target to donate yourself.

FRIDAY Oct 18th: Christian Concert with Michael W. Smith. 6 confirmed - let me know if you want to join ASAP

Sunday, Oct 20th: Youth lunch then PUMPKIN PATCH fun

Sunday, Oct 27th: Youth lunch PUMPKIN PATCH fun

Sunday Nov. 3rd: YOUTH lunch and worship then Healthy Relationship - TBA

Volunteer to furnish lunch for the YOUTH ... Sign Up on list on back table in sanctuary....

CALL TO ACTION

REMEMBER: HCCM!!

www.hccm.org

Food Contributions for the this past week was 35 (last week 33) pounds- Thank you so much to all who participated!! Bob

We REALLY appreciate your help!!! And I tell people ALL of the time.... We ONLY get to do the things we do because of people like YOU!!!! Thank you!!!! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Bob Bowker

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

ESL & GED CLASSES

COMMUNITY ACTION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

ESL/GED classes at Cedar Park FUMC All Classes are Free!!

Classes begin Monday, September 9th = will meet Mondays: 2:30-5pm & Fridays: 10a-1pm

For more **Information** please contact: Suzanne Johnson, sjohnson@communityaction.com 512.971.4380

DELL OPTI PLEX 3040

MICRO FORM FACTOR DESKTOP COMPUTER -

FOR SALE \$285

A perfect, micro footprint computer for a home theater, TV video streaming, student, home office or to downsize from that old, clunky full-size tower machine hogging all of your desk space. This machine has a 6th generation Intel Core processor, a solid-state disk and the latest Windows 10 Professional operating system included. This machine is small enough that it can be mounted on the back of a desktop monitor.



HARDWARE

- Dell OptiPlex 3040 Micro Form Factor – Service Tag DMYRND2
- 3.20 GHz Intel Core i3-6100T processor (dual core, 4 threads), 3MB cache, 35w
- 8 GB DDR3L (PC3-12800) RAM (16 GB max)
- 256 GB Hynix SC311 SATA III (6 GB/s) solid state drive
- Wired Realtek RTL8111HSD Gigabit network port; (option for M.2 wireless card - not included)
- 4 x USB 3.0 ports (2 front/2 rear), 2x USB 2.0 ports (rear)
- Integrated Intel HD Graphics 530 (4096 x 2304 max resolution @ 60Hz)

- HDMI 1.4 and Display Port 1.2 video outputs
- Audio: 2x stereo line in and 2x stereo line out (1 front/1 rear)
- Optional Serial I/O port included
- Dimensions: 7.2" H x 1.4" W x 7.0" D
- Weight: 2.8 lbs.
- 65w power supply
- AC power cable and power adapter included
- Originally shipped 24Feb17
- Remaining Dell warranty good until 25Feb20

SOFTWARE INCLUDED

- Windows 10 Professional 64-bit v1903 (latest)
- Chrome, Adobe Acrobat Reader

CONTACT : Neil Howard, nhowardtx@gmail.com with questions or if interested.

TIDBITS

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SATURDAY, OCT 5TH, 9AM-12NOON**

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Sign Up Here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W7CQbgO7Eeg67MnFTvG1_os_6za-ZoSz1xyX1Qrg2rc/edit?usp=sharing

CAPITAL DISTRICT NEWS

CHARGE CONFERENCES, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER THINGS ADMINISTRATIVE

This fall, as we continue with group **Charge Conferences**, churches are invited to select the date and location of the group conference that works best for them. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Sunday, October 27, 3PM - 5PM at Manchaca UMC – 1011 FM 1626, Manchaca, TX
- Monday, October 28, 7PM – 9PM at Burnet FUMC – 301 E. Graves St., Burnet, TX
- **Saturday, November 9, 10AM - 12PM at Cedar Park FUMC – 600 W. Park St., Cedar Park, TX**
- Thursday, November 14, 7PM - 9PM at Simpson UMC – 1701 E. 12th St., Austin, TX
- Saturday, November 16, 10AM - 12PM at Saint John's UMC – 2140 Allandale Rd., Austin, TX
- Tuesday, December 3, 7PM - 9PM at Pflugerville FUMC – 500 E. Pecan St., Pflugerville, TX

SAT, OCT 5 COMMUNITY-WIDE LEARNING EVENT ON US IMMIGRATION PROCESS

7-9 PM

SERVANT CHURCH HOSTING - 1605 E. 38 1/2 St. 78722

Join Servant Church for a community-wide learning event about the U.S. immigration process. This event will bust five common myths even people who consider themselves well-informed (dare we say, "woke") might unknowingly believe. The truth is we can always learn more. This event will include information sharing from Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) Director Lizzie Wright and table discussion as a community. The event is FREE and open to all. Free childcare (ages walking-12 years) is available but you must sign up for it [here](#). Please fill out one form per child who needs care. RSVP for the event [here](#).

AREA CHURCHES REACH MISSION FIELD AND ENGAGE IN MINISTRIES SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Rev. Katy Fitzgold

About five years ago, Oak Hill UMC began the hard task of examining our own efforts in local "missions." We delved into a season of introspection as we began to unravel that our patterns of local engagement generally led us to serving in east Austin. Most (not all) of the ministry OHUMC engaged in was genuinely beautiful and meaningful ministry, but as we took a hard look we had to acknowledge how little we did in our own immediate back yard.

We entered a season of discernment as we re-focused on the needs of our physical neighborhood and were humbled by what we found. As we began to engage in the Oak Hill community, we were introduced to an organization called Foundation Communities. We learned about the model Foundation Communities employs to not only offer affordable housing to families and individuals, but wraps those who live there with all the necessary services and assistance to open the door to wholeness.

When we learned that there was already an apartment complex just a couple miles from us and a second complex just opening, we wanted to learn more. Now, a few years later, our partnership with the two communities in our back yard is continuing to grow. We started with an annual Easter egg hunt and party with the families, but as we've learned of various needs and opportunities our congregation began to truly partner in the transformative work of Foundation Communities.

OHUMC members have provided a children's library, an annual backpack and school supplies drive, and volunteers to help all low-income residents of Austin with tax prep and health insurance registration. We have a group that provides occasional dinners for a single adult complex to help foster relationships, and we have members who tutor children and help with the after school program. A Sunday school class provides welcome baskets for new residents who might arrive at their new apartment without the basics of sheets, towels, and dishes.

Perhaps our greatest lesson from the past few years has been that when Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, it is far too easy for us to default to a broader sense of neighbor and ignore those who are literally down the street. Foundation Communities has communities all over Austin that are already doing transformative work, there might even be one down the street from your own church.

SAT NOV 16 AUTHOR AUSTIN CHANNING BROWN COMING TO UNIVERSITY UMC

7PM



Austin Channing Brown, renowned author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, is coming to University UMC! A graduate with a master's degree in social justice, she brings a unique perspective. Using her own stories she helps us engage in complex issues such as social class, racism, education, the prison system and more. Join us as Brown helps us unpack what it means to be a progressive in the fight for equality, challenging us to look inward to address our daily prejudices as we strive for an actively anti-racist community. Grab your tickets early for only \$10.

Prices go up soon! uumc.org/acb

NEW EXPRESSIONS WORLDWIDE (N.E.W.) PLAN WOULD CREATE 4 DENOMINATIONS

UM-Forward is proposing a plan to the 2020 General Conference that would split the existing United Methodist Church into four new denominations. Image courtesy of UM-Forward.

A United Methodist group has submitted legislation that would dissolve The United Methodist Church and form four new global denominations instead.

The legislation says the new Methodist expressions would be traditionalist, moderate, progressive and liberationist in orientation.

[The New Expressions Worldwide, or N.E.W., Plan](#) is the work of UM-Forward, a group that identifies as a collective of United Methodist liberationists. By that, group members mean that they seek to advance the liberation of the marginalized — namely people of color and LGBTQ individuals.

“Our plan is not the panacea, but it makes it possible for each denomination to fulfill their mission as they feel called,” said the Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, a UM-Forward leader and General Conference reserve delegate.

The N.E.W. Plan is among multiple proposals [heading to the 2020 General Conference](#) that aim to address the denomination’s longstanding division over the status of LGBTQ people. The denomination’s multinational top lawmaking body will meet May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis.

Like the N.E.W. Plan, a number of other proposals seek to dramatically reshape or divide the denomination over what drafters see as irreconcilable differences.

“Remodeling the house or replacing the roof and adding a fresh coat of paint are not going to address the detrimental cracks on the foundation,” said da Silva Souto, senior pastor of New Milford United Methodist Church in Connecticut.

However, the N.E.W. Plan differs from other publicized proposals in envisioning The United Methodist Church giving rise to four separate Methodist expressions, adding liberationists to a mix that usually includes traditionalists and some combination of moderates and progressives.

“While Progressives may be defined by a desire to include all people in the church’s current form, Liberationists are interested in radically reimagining the ways we relate to one another and the world,” explains UM-Forward in [its Frequently Asked Questions site](#). “We desire to be a church where the marginalized are centered, power is redistributed, and we are free to en flesh radical actions of prophetic love in solidarity with movements for justice taking place globally.”

The Rev. Alka Lyall, a General Conference delegate and UM-Forward leader, said the N.E.W. Plan is grounded in the liberation of those she believes have long been oppressed by the church institution.

“We have invested a lot of time, energy and resources in maintaining the institution and have lost our focus on the mission of our church,” said Lyall, who is also senior pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago.

“Freeing ourselves from maintaining what is already dead, will free us to do the work that God has called us to.”

The plan calls for:

- A Transitional Council to draft a plan of separation. Each of the four new denominations will name five individuals to the council, including at least two lay people from each denomination.
- Consultation with the Council of Bishops, other church leadership bodies, agencies and a professional mediator in drafting the plan of separation. The plan “shall be governed by the principles of self-determination, equitable distribution of general church assets, restorative justice, and reparations.”
- A special General Conference before 2024 that would take up the plan of separation.
- A moratorium on complaints, charges and church trials related to the church’s restrictions around homosexuality until separation occurs.

The group [UM-Forward](#) formed in 2018 to back the Simple Plan at February’s special General Conference. That plan would have removed all church restrictions related to homosexuality.

Instead, a majority of delegates at the lawmaking assembly adopted [the Traditional Plan](#), legislation that maintains the policy that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” and strengthens enforcement of bans on same-gender weddings and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy.

However, immediately after the special General Conference, the plan faced resistance from people who see the measures as discriminatory against LGBTQ churchgoers.

In May, UM-Forward [held the Our Movement Forward summit](#) at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church in Minneapolis to consider next steps. That gathering, which drew some 350 U.S. United Methodists, contributed to the plan.

The UM-Forward leadership team does not include any members in the central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. However, it does include members from outside the United States, including da Silva Souto, a native of Brazil.

The Rev. Jay Williams, a General Conference delegate who helped draft the plan, said he sees the plan as empowering to churches like the one he pastors. Union Church in Boston, which is today multiethnic, was the first predominantly African American United Methodist congregation to identify as reconciling — meaning it explicitly advocated for LGBTQ equality.

“Black people were largely enslaved in the USA when Methodism was formed at the Christmas Conference of 1784,” he said. “And black Methodists have spent the better part of our existence faithfully reforming Methodism and its sins of white supremacy, institutional racism and patriarchy. This plan imagines otherwise. The N.E.W. Plan says, ‘Let’s start from a place of shared commitment to equity, justice and liberation for all — the true core of grace and holiness.’”

Joy Butler, a lay member of St. John’s United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas, said she sees the plan as empowering crucial regional ministries [such as the work the Rio Texas Conference does with immigrant families](#).

“The Holy Spirit is calling us to something new,” she said, “a chance to minister more fully with and to the world.”

<https://www.umnews.org/>

9 NEW ENGLAND CHURCHES CONSIDER DISAFFILIATION

Citing The United Methodist Church's unchanged position on LGBTQ issues, nine congregations in the New England Conference are embarking upon an eight-month "process of discernment" to consider disaffiliation from the denomination.

In a Sept. 26 press release, the congregations voiced dismay "over the oppressive and punitive actions" of the Special General Conference in February and indicated "that their understanding of human sexuality and God's inclusive love is in direct and potentially irreconcilable conflict with the policies and practices of The United Methodist Church."

The group said it also chose that date to notify Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar of their intention because Sept. 26 marks the 232nd anniversary of when the Rev. Jesse Lee, an early Methodist circuit rider and evangelist, formed the first Methodist class in New England in 1787.

The idea is not to create a new denomination or try to save or reshape the church, explained the Rev. Will Green, a commissioned provisional elder serving at Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church in Peaks Island, Maine.

Those churches contemplating the decision to disaffiliate are:

- Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church in Peaks Island, Maine – the Rev. Will Green
- Tuttle Road United Methodist Church in Cumberland, Maine, - The Rev. Linda Brewster
- Ballard Vale United Church, Andover, Massachusetts — the Rev. Geisa Matos.
- Calvary United Methodist Church, Arlington, Massachusetts — the Rev. Cynthia Good.
- Chebeague Island United Methodist Church, Chebeague Island, Maine — the Rev. Melissa Yosua-Davis.
- Epiphany United Methodist Church, South Portland, Maine — the Rev. Andrea Harvey.
- HopeGateWay, Portland, Maine — the Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill.
- Versailles United Methodist Church, Versailles, Connecticut — the Rev. Wanda Greaves.
- West Scarborough United Methodist Church, West Scarborough, Maine — the Rev. Dodie Sheffield.

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