“A Response from our Bishop Leonard Fairley to the Protocol Document on Reconciliation and Separation”

What follows is a statement that our bishop, Leonard Fairley, sent out on January 7th. For those who do not use email, I wanted to share it with you. You can find the Protocol Document that he mentions on our church website www.statestreetumc.org. Julie Pride, in her role as our Communications Director, will be including official statements, articles and proposals that relate to the May 2020 General Conference on our website in order to keep our church better informed. With you, I want to remain prayerful and focused on our church’s mission of “making disciples who love and serve around the corner and around the world.”

Grace and Peace!

Dr. Jay

I know many of you have been longing to hear a word from your Bishop as you’ve seen countless statements, and most likely, numerous posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter regarding the proposed Protocol Document on Reconciliation and Separation. It is also likely that you’ve heard, and possibly joined in, many conversations already. The national and local media outlets have picked up the story with their own sensational headlines: “The United Methodist Church Splits.” “Church Leaders and Bishops Propose Split Over LBGTQ Issue.”

I don’t mind confessing that in these last 48 hours I have been an emotional wreck, but let me qualify that statement. Epiphany Sunday, January 5, I baptized my and Priscilla’s grandson in a United Methodist Church that we both loved with all our hearts. I love and will always remain eternally hopeful for our denomination. Like many of you I have grieved, longing for a word from the Lord. What if our hopes lie in letting go of the very things we think we have to hold? What if our hopes lie in confessing that we’ve made idols of our ideologies and our stances with an unwillingness to yield to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit?

Often, the hope of life and resurrection comes through the grief of loss nothing short of death. It was the hardest thing I think I have ever had to do, bending down over my wife Priscilla and saying, “Honey, it’s OK to let go.” In that letting go I learned and witnessed God’s power of healing. That healing only happened after I surrendered daily to all my pain, suffering, hurt, and ego that desired to control outcomes. I had to learn all over again how to give everything to Jesus Christ. I pray that now we will be able to ready ourselves to live into all the possibilities and newness of life that God has to offer. Change and letting go of things we cherish is extremely hard and painful, but we must let go if hope, redemption, salvation, and peace are to be possibilities. As Matthew 9:17 tells us, you can’t put new wine into old wine skins.

I ask that you join me in prayer, asking God to help us see the possibility of renewed hope and reconciliation, even in the midst of possible separation. Help us, God, to continue the daily works of piety and social holiness that will lead us to the sharing of the gospel with all your people. Help us, Lord, never to lose sight of the grace you promised would be sufficient for us; may that be true, especially in the days ahead, as we prepare for General Conference. May we be reminded that no proposal is Disciplinary law until it is voted on and approved by General Conference. Help us, Lord, to read the protocol document through the lens of “Holy Sight.” May we pray, nevertheless,
not what I want, but what you desire for your church, Lord. I pray, oh God, that you would remind us that the Church has never been ours to control and manipulate. It has and always will be yours, even though it might get battered and bruised by our conflicts; the good news of the gospel will always find a way to prevail. With all that has gone before us, and all that is yet to come during this season of discernment, there is a unifying constant. “That unifying constant is a movement toward God that results in transformation of life and how life is valued and lived out in the everyday experiences of our existence.” – Rueben Job, Three Simple Rules.

I offer to you the following prayer and scriptures that have been helpful to me as I’ve read the protocol document, always asking myself, “Lord, is it time?” If it is indeed time to let go of the very things we think we have to hold on to for the sake of your kingdom’s work, give us the courage to walk through this valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil.

“Eternal God, calm and quieten my soul; keep me humble and full of hope, wonder and love, trusting in your grace as I live in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Adapted from the Daily Office.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” -- Matthew 6:34

I also include the entire 17th chapter of John’s gospel while asking God’s forgiveness that we have not been able to live into the prayer Jesus prayed for us. One final request: Please continue to be the Church that offers good news to a hurting world, making a place at the table for all God’s people. I believe that at the table of the Lord transformation is always possible.

Bishop Leonard Fairley

*In Memory of Tom Cannon*
Given to the Youth Ministries Fund by Scott & Sara Bachert

*In Memory of Harry Robe*
Given to the Thanksgiving Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Stegeman

*In Memory of Spike Funk*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Betty Tee Smith

*In Memory of Mary Evelyn Banks*
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Hardy & Julie Morse

*In Memory of Glenna Burton*
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Martha Harkelroad

*In Memory of Joan Capps*
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Martha Harkelroad

*In Memory of Don Wendt*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Alice Nicely

*In Honor of Phylis Robe*
Given to the Thanksgiving Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Stegeman & Ann Pfisterer

*In Honor of Susan Gardner*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Alan & Jane Cannon

*In Honor of Mike Bishop*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by The New Life Sunday School Class

*In Honor of Carol & Donna Lee*
Given to the Food Ministries Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Stegeman

*In Honor of Dr. Jay & Marian Smith*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Paul & Sherrilyn Duvall

*In Honor of Betty Shaw, Ann McCormack & Joyce Robertson*
Given to the Christmas Food Boxes by Mr. and Mrs. Norb Stegeman

*In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Rob James*
Given to the Endowment Fund by Mary Jones Berry

*In Honor of Norb Stegeman*
Given to the Ky. United Methodist Children’s Home and The Foundry by Jane Stegeman

*In Honor of Georgeanna Hagerman*
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future by Hardy & Julie Morse

*In Honor the Paul & Ellen Fryman*
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Paul & Sherrilyn Duvall
In Memory of Corinne Meeks
Given to the Food Ministries Fund by Rachel Allen
Given to the Endowment Fund by Don & Kim Williams
Given to the Music/Chancel Choir Fund by Fred & Lucretia Carter
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by The Smith Family, Martha Harkelroad

In Memory of Donna Lee Hunter
Given to the Room in the Inn Fund by Tom & Judy Moore
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Fred & Lucretia Carter, Leo & Freida Eggleton, Martha Harkelroad
Given to the Food Ministries Fund by Rachel Allen
Given to the Endowment Fund by Don & Kim Williams, Chip & Polly Lawson
Given to the Help Ministries Fund by Mr. and Mrs. Norb Stegeman

In Memory of Shirley Thurmond
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Alan Yungbluth, Jim Thurmond, Lee & Joyce Robertson

In Memory of Dorothy Dodson
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by The Smith Family, Martha Harkelroad
Given to the Food Ministries Fund by Rachel Allen
Given to the Endowment Fund by Don & Kim Williams

In Memory of Shirley Holland
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Lee & Joyce Robertson

In Memory of Wayne Denney
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Tom & Lynne Tecu

In Memory of Nodie Wilson
Given to the Endowment Fund by Alan & Adrienne Dieball, D.R. & S. A. Hartman, Harriett Downing
Given to the Christmas Food Boxes by Trent & Lee Young
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Betty Bostick
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by The Pathfinder’s Class & Alice Nicely, Lee & Joyce Robertson
Given to the Food Ministries by Rachel Allen

In Memory of Pat Markle
Given to the Christmas Food Boxes by Trent & Lee Young
Given to the Endowment Fund by Don & Kim Williams
Given to the Window Restoration Fund by Alice Nicely, Cliff & Mary Nahm, Jim & Anna Jo Johnson, Lee & Joyce Robertson

In Memory of Elizabeth Honeycutt
Given to the Strong Foundation/Strong Future Fund by Betty Bostick

In Memory of Nancy Napier
**Prayer Requests**

**Recent Requests:**
- Brenda Reilly
- Mike Link
- Pat Hewitt
- Alice Kummer
- Bob Canter
- Patrick Kerensky
- Bailey Norris
- Tasha Moore
- Carol Gatto

**On Going Requests:**
- Riley Sandidge

**On Going Requests:**
- Betty Satterfield
- Bernard Fullen
- Dan Riley
- Covella Biggers
- Clarice Scarborough
- Jenrose Pierce
- Suzanne Vitale
- Lavinia Rogers
- Carrie Wagoner Gilreath
- David Rogers

**Please Note:** The names of persons for whom prayer has been requested will remain on our prayer list for one month unless we are notified otherwise.

The names of the homebound and ill of our church family as well as our church leaders and military will be kept on our list indefinitely.

## Please Remember Our Special Friends in Prayer:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter Senior Living</th>
<th>Village Manor</th>
<th>Homebound</th>
<th>Arcadia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackie Mathison</td>
<td>Sarah Watson</td>
<td>Madge Bailey</td>
<td>Jeanne Mays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Whitfield</td>
<td>Ed &amp; Helen Henderson</td>
<td>Magnolia Village</td>
<td>Dan Riley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Cooper</td>
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<td>Jenrose Pierce</td>
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<td>Sue Penn</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bridgepointe</th>
<th>Chandler Assisted Living</th>
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<tr>
<td>Norb Stegeman</td>
<td>Norm Hunter</td>
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## State Street UMC: “Strong Foundation, Strong Future”

Good things can happen when someone has a vision and moves forward with it. Such was the case in the development of the church library at State Street. Because there were no resource materials available for Sunday School teachers, Bible Study groups, circle groups, or for personal growth, Ruby Jane Grise and others felt that these needs could be met through the development of a church library. In 1964, Ms. Grise presented this idea to the pastors who agreed and she donated $350 as a beginning for such a project. It was not until later in 1965 when Ms. Grise was appointed chairman of a Library Study Committee that the serious work of forming the library began. She sought advice from staff of the Methodist Publishing House, Cokesbury Bookstore and from Western’s retired librarian, Margie Helm. She visited libraries within the city to observe and seek suggestions. By early into 1966, the library movement had gained momentum. A rules and regulations library policy was formed with a plan to follow for selecting books. The Couples Sunday School Class donated book shelves, a room was designated as “The Library”, a card catalogue was purchased, a desk was brought out of storage, a used typewriter was donated, and the first books were processed for shelving. Money donations soon came flowing in from the church membership and the Administrative Board began allocating several hundred dollars a year for expenses and new books. In 1967, the library received a gift of $5,000 from the estate of Dr. G. Y. Graves, allowing the development to move forward more rapidly. We give thanks for the dedicated work of persons of vision who are a part of our Strong Foundation.
February – Youth and Adult Discipleship

The youth council has been meeting and is in the process of planning the programming and activities for the spring semester. As soon as the schedule is finalized, we will let you know. We are excited to see where things lead!

CONFIRMATION IS STARTING!

There will be a parent meeting on February 2nd following the 10:00 worship service. It will be held in the loft area at Grace Place. The first lesson is scheduled for Sunday, February 9th at 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday is Scheduled for Sunday, May 31st.

Starting Wednesday February 12th you can take control of your money with Financial Peace University (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! The $99 cost for FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Join an FPU group today! Contact Jennifer Dickinson at 792-6160 for more info.

Wednesday Night Gathering

We will start class on January 22. We will begin with The Call, The life and message of The Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have several small groups forming. They are a great way to build your community. If you would like more information please call Jennifer Dickinson at 270-792-6160 or email me at jdickinson@statetstreetumc.org

“YOU NEED COMMUNITY AND SOMEBODY IN COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU.”

- Andy Stanley

We have two Bible study options starting soon. Monday, January 27 at 6:00 pm and Tuesday, January 28 at 10:00 am. The classes will meet in the library. We will be studying Namesake by Jessica LaGrone.
**Sundays-2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd**
8:08 and 10:00 Worship
9:00 Sunday School

**Wednesdays- 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th**
5:30- Dinner
5:50- Cherub Choir
6:00- Elementary Classes/Choir
6:10- Preschool Classes

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**Mr. Kyle’s Korner**
Please prayerfully consider volunteering to work with the primary and preschool children doing pre-planned and pre-prepared lessons (with a simple script) during Children’s Church. We need leader teachers and assistants. 20-30 minutes at most with usually 5 or less children. 2nd and 3rd Sundays are taken care of, we really need help on 4th Sundays. I do pray that you feel called to help us. Thank You!

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**Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**
Proverbs 22:6

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>WNG-K-5</th>
<th>WNG-Preschool</th>
<th>Worship Bags for February</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd-Beth Clark</td>
<td>5th- Corey Summers</td>
<td>5th- Tricia Renfrow</td>
<td>Pam Funk</td>
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<td>9th- Jane Cannon</td>
<td>12th- Burton Vaughan</td>
<td>12th- Joy Beth Dunn</td>
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<td>16th- Aubin Jefferson</td>
<td>19th-Beth Clark</td>
<td>19th-Jessica Reidel</td>
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<td>23rd- Teresa Lanham</td>
<td>26th-Monica Duvall</td>
<td>26th-Kate Hendrix</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children’s Church Helpers</strong></td>
<td><strong>WNG-Preschool</strong></td>
<td><strong>WNG-Preschool</strong></td>
<td><strong>WNG-Preschool</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9th- Kyle Summers/David Emerson</td>
<td>5th- Tricia Renfrow</td>
<td>12th- Joy Beth Dunn</td>
<td>Pam Funk</td>
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<td>16th- Molly McGill/Lucretia Carter</td>
<td>19th-Jessica Reidel</td>
<td>26th-Kate Hendrix</td>
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<td>23rd-HELP NEEDED</td>
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Kyle Summers, Director of Children and Families Ministries- kyle.summers@statestreetumc.org
February Scripture Reader/Offertory Prayer Schedule

9th  Lee Young (8:08)
     Pam Connally (10:00)
     Mike Gardner (Prayer)
16th Lee Young (8:08)
       Freida Eggleton (10:00)
       Steve Schnacke (Prayer)
23rd Shellie Allen (8:08)
    April Fulcher (10:00)
    Marian Smith (Prayer)

February Greeters

2nd  Gail Dyce/Tammy Calvert (8:08)
     Joe Lyon (10)
     Don/Linda Howell (10)
9th  Kris/Marty Potter (8:08)
     Donna Penn, Charley Pride (10)
     Phylis Robe, David Rogers (10)
16th Mary Hutchins, Pam Funk (8:08)
    Susannah Truelove (10)
    Jane Stegeman, Mary Nahm (10)
23rd George/Judy Knee (8:08)
    Rhonda/Tim Wagoner (10)
    Paul/Sherrilyn Duvall (10)

Join us on Sunday, February 16th as we welcome our District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Dickinson.

Mark will be preaching at both services as part of our 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Music Ministry Birthday Dinner
Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:00
Gary Obal, Lindsay Summers, Beverly Parrish, Marion Napier and Sandra Speer

Children’s Choir Schedule

9th - Cherubs Sing
    “Jesus Says Follow Me”
16th - Carolers Sing
    “Bring Forth the Kingdom”
26th - ASH WEDNESDAY
    NO CHILDRENS CHOIRS

Minute ‘Men’ Ministry
Don't forget that we have men and women ready to assist you with tasks around the home. Need help changing light bulbs? Give Lee a call and she will send someone your way!

Join the Music Ministry and share more than just a song. Share in fellowship, friendship, worship and prayer!

Minister of Music, Worship and Congregational Care lyoung@statetstreetumc.org 270-535-4910
February 17th

State Street Staff

Senior Pastor
~ Dr. Jay Smith

Minister of Music, Worship, and Congregational Care
~ Lee Young

Director of Children & Family Ministries
~ Kyle Summers

Director of Discipleship
~ Jennifer Dickinson

Organist ~ Julie Pride

Business Manager ~ Tricia Hendrix

Church Hostess ~ Betty Lee

Maintenance ~ Dennis Jones

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