



Hebron United Methodist Church
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May 5, 2019

Rev. Darneather Murph-Heath
Elgin District Superintendent
Aurora/Elgin Office
217 Division Street
Elgin, IL 60120
dmurph-heath@umcinc.org

Dear District Superintendent Murph-Heath,

We, the Hebron United Methodist Church, are reaching out to you in response to the decision made by the 2019 General Conference to pass the Traditional Plan. We are disappointed with this ruling and feel that it does not reflect who we are as a church or who we aim to be as Christian disciples. We feel “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” is more than a slogan. It is a calling. It has saddened our congregation to see that our United Methodist Church has taken a step back from that calling, and instead has not only affirmed our LGBTQ members as “incompatible,” but has also legislated penalties on them.

The Hebron United Methodist Church is committed to our vision: *We will be God's inclusive love.* We believe that God's inclusive love doesn't have separate rules for certain people. The Hebron United Methodist Church is committed to our mission: *Creating pathways to serve and love God's people.* We believe in creating pathways that bring all people closer to God and closer to each other in love. We do not create pathways that judge, harm and penalize.

We, at the Hebron United Methodist Church fiercely love our LGBTQ members. This has been revealed in the past few months in our church more than it ever has before. We stand by our LGBTQ members, present and future, and we will not support any further actions that will cause them harm. We are deeply troubled that this support could potentially make our congregation “incompatible” with the United Methodist Church once the Traditional Plan is implemented in January 2020.

Reverend, we ask for your leadership and guidance to move our district forward in the path of love and full inclusion, while still enabling us to be the United Methodist Church. We believe in this Church and we trust that God's work will continue to shape it into his loving image.

Steven W. Johnson, HUMC Council Chairman

cc: Bishop Sally Dyck