

We Will Not Be Silent
A Declaration from the Western Jurisdiction

Meeting in Casper, Wyoming, July 12-15, 2000

We of the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church have heard the call of the prophet Micah “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” We have heard Jesus’ invitation for all to come to the banquet table of God’s abundant grace.

Certain actions of General Conference 2000 have caused tremendous pain for individuals and communities and have resulted in an attempt to suppress our prophetic and pastoral ministries among all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

The votes may have been cast but our voices will not be silent. Our jurisdictional vision calls us to be “a home for all God’s people, gathered around a table of reconciliation and transformation.” Affirming the statement of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church, “We acknowledge that there may be differences of opinion among us, but this does not require that we wait on justice.” We cannot accept discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender persons and therefore, we will work toward their full participation at all levels in the life of the church and society. Valuing the voices of those who disagree, we will continue to be in dialogue as we journey together in creative tension. We will continue to be in ministry with all God’s children and celebrate the gifts diversity brings. We will continue to feast at table with all God’s children.

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