

HEART & MIND LISTENING SESSIONS - TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Whereas The United Methodist Church has experienced increasing polarization over theological and ethical issues, leading to the church being distracted from the mission of the church outlined in Our Theological Task (§ 10-15); and,

Whereas persons of sincere faith and Christian commitment within the church are led by interpretation of scripture and convictions of conscience to significantly divergent beliefs and actions regarding the church's ministry to and with LGBTQ persons and their families; and,

Whereas in response to this divergence and in pursuit of a fruitful shared future, the 2016 General Conference requested the Council of Bishops to appoint a Commission on a Way Forward to develop proposals to provide a way forward that would refocus the church on discipleship and mission; and,

Whereas the Commission on a Way Forward has modeled sacramental, trust-building conversation marked by empathy, compassion and critical thinking within the complexity of disagreement on theology and ecclesiology,

Whereas the Commission and the Council have both urged the church to act out of a "heart of peace" rather than a "heart of war," giving grace and exercising Christ-like humility in the way that we engage with one another;

There be it resolved, that the Core Leadership Team organize listening sessions in four (4) areas where representation from the delegation numbering at least six (6) 2019 General Conference delegates and the people of the Texas Annual Conference might speak openly and honestly about our shared future, specifically addressing the Council of Bishop's report on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

There be it also resolved, that the Core Leadership Team shall standardize the format and scheduling of these sessions during the Fall of 2018 (August 1 – October 31, 2018), and ensure that the discussion is recorded by an elected secretary.

Therefore be it finally resolved, that the Texas Annual Conference delegation shall meet prior to the special called General Conference of 2019 to review and discuss the minutes from the four (4) sessions.

Signed by:

Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe, Melissa Maher, Hannah Terry