



Truth for Today

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Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

Methodists Agree on Compromise to Split Denomination

by Don Hooton

Christianity Today's article by this same title reported that the "United Methodist Church (UMC) have reached an initial settlement around its intractable division over LGBT marriage and ordination—offering \$25 million to a group of conservative congregations who want to break away and form a new denomination... "The assumption for everybody involved in this agreement was that the [Wesleyan Covenant Association](#) (WCA) would launch the traditional denomination referenced in the protocol," said Virginia pastor Keith Boyette, WCA president. The WCA includes 125,000 people in 1,500 churches who favor the UMC's traditional marriage stance.... LGBT advocates in the UMC have praised the plan, looking forward to finally overcoming the stalemates over the denomination's official stance on homosexuality. In 1972, the UMC stated that "homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are persons of sacred worth," but "the practice of homosexuality ... incompatible with Christian teaching. [Today], Jan Lawrence, who participated in the protocol deliberations as director of the Reconciling Ministries Network, [said], "The potential to have the anti-LGBTQ language removed in 2020 is amazing, and the agreement to start a moratorium two days ago, those are very positive things for LGBTQ United Methodists."

Observations begin with this: "Homosexuals will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1Corinthians 6:9-11). When reading that, we must understand that it does not mean that people who had practiced homosexuality were not in that church. There was (and in many others) because Paul's "and such were some of you" in the context means that they had been homosexuals. What it *does* mean is that these people were expected to repent of the sin from which they were washed – as were also the adulterers, the thieves and the drunkards (6:11). Homosexuals can become Christians – and stay Christians – if they are willing to

repent. It is clear that the new UMC will ignore this passage of Scripture.

Another observation about church structure: The report of "a group of conservative congregations who will break away" is indicative of a denominational mind set. To help illustrate, there is a ship (singular), ships (plural) and a fleet (plural collective, under authority of a lead admiral/sheep); but in the Bible, there is only a church (singular), churches (plural of individual bodies) but church is never used as a plural collective as above. Each church in Scripture was independent and governed by elders (1Peter 5:1-2) who yielded to the authority of Jesus (Ephesians 1:22-23). Conceptually, as long as any group of churches yield their independence to the guidance or rule to an outside entity, they will never be a Biblical church.

And here is an observation for us: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth" (2Timothy 4:3-4). In every generation since Paul penned those words, we will see it fulfilled when believers leave the teaching of Christ for the teaching that pleases them – or pleases the masses. Honesty demands that we accept that Divine observation and agree with what the Spirit said, "in later times some will fall away from the faith" (1Timothy 4:1). While Paul says some will "forbid marriage" when they should not, his reference is to the clergy system developed through Catholicism – not those who forbid marriage to those who are polygamists or homosexuals.

When will our time come? It is when we will no longer want what the Bible says to be the guide for everything we do. "Where the Bible points the Way" and "Where the Bible speaks, we speak – where the Bible is silent, we are silent" have no moratorium with people who understand the authority of Scripture – it is the Way: the way to unity; the way to harmony; and the way to life eternal.

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Hailey Boniche's** ear surgery is tentatively scheduled for 1/24 at 7:30am.
- **Lori Alexander's** niece's newborn son Luke Peterbaugh, has bacterial meningitis and is in NICU in Dallas.
- **Jenica St John's** dad, Bob St John.
- **Tom and Carolyn Craig** are undergoing arthritis, uncontrolled diabetes, vision problems, and fall issues.
- **Jon Banks** is better
- **Diane Bray** had a kidney biopsy this month and was diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder (glomerulonephritis). It is treatable which she has begun and the treatment will last for up to two years.
- **Several people** are battling seasonal ailments. Prayers for wellness is appreciated.
—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **WINTER ADULT CLASSES**
 - ◊ **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium
 - ◊ **THE MESSIAH'S MISFITS** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
 - ◊ **INTRODUCING THE PSALMS** | WEDNESDAY in the Auditorium
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | Postcards on the Barnabas table. See Leo Betancourt.
- **2:52 Kids Class** (MEMORIZING BIBLE FACTS & PRAISE) [2-12] | 1/5/20, 4:30 p.m. classroom #9
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING CLASS** | (3rd Sundays) 1/19/2020, 4:00 p.m.
- **YOUNG ADULT STUDY** ["twenty-somethings"]

- Friday, 1/25*, 6:30 p.m. at the Hootons.
- **TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.] | studying Luke; resumes 1/7/2020
- **TEEN BIBLE DEVO** [12-18, 3rd Saturdays] | resumes in January, Davis' home.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY** [30/40 somethings, bi-monthly] | 1/25, 6:00 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **OUTREACH MEETUP STUDY** | resumes in 2020 at Panera Bread.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME** Bible Study | Sundays beginning 2/2/2020, 4:00 p.m.
- **DEACON MEETING** | Sun., 1/5/2020, **(TODAY!)** after evening worship.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** | Sun., 1/12/2020, after morning worship.
- **WORKDAY** | Sat., 2/8/2020
- **MEETING** | with Ethan Longhenry from Venice, CA | 2/9-12/2020
- **SINGING** | Sat., 3/7/2020
- **YOUTH LECTURES** | NEW DATE | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9/2020
- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall from Brooklyn, NY, 9/13-16/2020

AREA EVENTS

- **GOSPEL MEETING** | Fry Road church of Christ | Katy | 1/12-15

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes.
- Welcome back to **Gerald & Imogene Hodges** who, after moving closer to us after selling their

home, have placed membership again with us. See Enews for their new address.

- **Keith and Roxanne Hodges** will be moving to Nebraska. Keith will begin a new job with training next week and Roxanne and the kids will follow by June. Send them prayers and well-wishes. We will miss them! Roxanne will be travelling and visiting before the move later this year.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.
- **PLEASE NOTICE** a NEW sign-up sheet for building lockup that will volunteer for 15 days at a time.
- **DO YOU EXCEL in SOCIAL MEDIA?** Don is looking for some volunteers to co-manage the INSTAGRAM and TWITTER accounts with him. If you are interested, be sure to message Don or text him.

Attendance	Last Month Avg	Last Week
Sunday Bible Class	99	91
Sunday Worship AM	154	139
Sunday Worship PM	75	68
Wednesday PM	73	64

Sunday AM Worship	1/5/2020	1/12/2020	Communion Preparation
Song Leader	Keith Arrants	Norman Davis	January — LeBlanc
1st prayer	Michael Henss	Leo Betancourt	Visitor Hospitality
Scripture Reading	Trent Williams — Rom. 16:25-27	Adam Bohanan — Gal. 6:1-10	January — Arrants
Lord Supper Lead	George Chapman	Mickey Chandler	Elders
Bread	Granville Betton	Dwight Haas	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Fruit of Vine	Alan Stilts	Jay Dulin	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Offering	Bobby Cleek	Keith Arrants	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Helper	John Chegin	Joshua Suarez	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Helper	Timothy Chandler	Jonathan Chandler	Deacons
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Usher	Kaku Barkoh	Jeremy Crump	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Closing Prayer	Dwight Haas	Stuart Jones	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Announcements	Brian Clark	Craig Preuss	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Sunday PM Worship	1/5/2020	1/12/2005	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Song Leader	Don Hooton	Alan Stilts	Evangelists
1st prayer	Chris Latson	Mickey Chandler	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Mitch Harvey — Eph. 3:8-21	Jonathan Chandler — John 1:1-14	<p>You can also find us here...</p> <p> WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org</p> <p> facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist</p> <p> @woodlandscc</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p>
Lord Supper	Jeremy Crump	Jacob Cowart	
Preaching	Singing	Don Hooton	
Closing Prayer	Bobby Cleek	Paul Harshman	
Wednesday	1/8/2020	1/15/2020	
Song Leader	Hayden Clark	Norman Davis	<p>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</p> <p>Worship Assemblies Sundays at 10:20 am & 5:00 pm</p> <p>Bible Classes for All Ages Sundays 9:30 am & Wednesdays 7:00 pm</p>
Invitation	Dwight Haas	George Chapman	
Closing Prayer	Nathan Shows	Mickey Chandler	
Announcements	Adam Bohanan	Craig Preuss	