



October 11, 2019

Last Sunday October 6, we had the latest of our all-church meetings about Travis Park's responses to the 2019 General Conference. Kevin Collins shared about June's Annual Conference in Corpus Christi and how TPC helped lead a more inclusive vision in electing younger, more ethnically diverse, and more progressive lay and clergy delegates to the 2020 General Conference. Several plans will be considered there for an amicable separation in the UMC that supports an inclusive branch. Phil Watkins shared about a small group from TPC who met with Bishop Schnase and other Rio Texas conference leaders, and reminded us that we are not alone.

Pastor Valerie spoke about how she along with Kathleen Laborde and Pastor Eric recently returned from Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute outside Kansas City. There, representatives from about 1300 UMC churches across the country gathered to plan and pray for a new Methodism. We heard from Rev. Adam Hamilton about how faithful interpretation of the Bible supports LGBTQ people and an inclusive church, and we heard from diverse voices across the UMC advocating for a shared movement of resistance and renewal. The 64 participants from our Rio Texas area met and discussed how we can bring along more people and churches to an inclusive vision for all, and how we can resource people feeling alone in the places where they are.

To that end, Rio Texas UMC Next is hosting a rally on Saturday November 2 from 1:30-3:30pm at Gruene UMC in New Braunfels. Conference-wide resistance plans will be discussed there, and we hope there will be a strong contingent from Travis Park and other San Antonio churches. See facebook.com/RioTexasUMCNext for more details on this "En-Courage" rally.

Finally, a congregational survey was distributed at the all-church meeting and can be found here (short version of link). We are asking everyone to submit their opinions no later than November 3 on important decisions like disaffiliation and new affiliations, paying apportionments, and the TPC building.

More information on our responses and discernment process can be found at travispark.org/way-forward, or contact Pastor Eric (email), Kathleen Laborde (email), or churchcouncil@travispark.org. - *Rev. Eric Vogt*