



TRAVIS PARK CHURCH

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## WAY FORWARD/RESPONSE TO FEINBERG PROTOCOL FROM REV. ERIC VOGT



Dear Travis Park Church Family,

In the ten months since General Conference 2019, we have wrestled faithfully and worked diligently to discern a “way forward” following the global United Methodist Church’s passing of the “Traditional Plan,” which harms our LGBTQ siblings and so hurts all of us.

The “Traditional Plan” and its punitive new rules went into effect January 1, 2020. With 29 churches across our region, including 5 sister congregations in Austin, we signed on to an open letter to the bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction noting our continued commitments to a fully inclusive church. You can read that letter and share it - <http://bit.ly/openlettertoscbishopsjanuary2020> and you can find more resistance resources at [resistharm.com](http://resistharm.com).

On January 3, a “Protocol for Reconciliation & Grace through Separation” was announced by a mediation team of leaders representing many constituencies across the global church, both conservatives and progressives. It outlines a plan by which more conservative churches could leave the denomination. The churches that remain would then be released to practice a commitment to a fully inclusive and equal ministry for all people without fear of reprisal. This is one of many proposals that will be voted on at General Conference 2020, which begins in Minneapolis on May 5. Until then, we will prayerfully study and advocate for any and all plans that support the calling and ministry of LGBTQ persons. This is a long process to discern how to split and re-align the UMC’s 32,000 churches and nearly 13 million congregants world-wide. But I, for one, am encouraged to see a detailed and specific proposal that may draw support from diverse parts of the church.

A few links below, including my statements to the Express-News, may be helpful in understanding the “Feinberg Protocol.” Please continue to keep TPC and our part in the wider church in prayer, and bring thoughts and questions to Pastor Eric or the Church Council. — Rev. Eric Vogt, 01/10/2020

USEFUL LINKS: bishop statement at Rio Texas page, [bit.ly/2FBrPK6](http://bit.ly/2FBrPK6); FAQ about the protocol, [bit.ly/2FzoF9Z](http://bit.ly/2FzoF9Z); helpful summary of the protocol and process from Dr. Ted Campbell, Perkins/SMU, [bit.ly/39Wm9sf](http://bit.ly/39Wm9sf); Express-News with Pastor Eric, [bit.ly/307LdYR](http://bit.ly/307LdYR).