



La Tijera

United Methodist Church Newsletter

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

The Simple Plan by Bill Mefford

Below is an excerpt from an article written by Bill Mefford, offering another alternative to the proposed three plans regarding human sexuality which will be considered at the upcoming General Conference:

“The UMC is preparing for their General Conference in February where they will decide whether they will continue to exclude LGBTQ people from full participation in the life of the church. They have come up with 3 plans and none of them call for full participation, which is outrageous.

As the UMC prepares for the 2019 Special General Conference, and the One Church Plan gains momentum, we cannot remain silent. While we recognize and give thanks for the hard and holy work done by the Commission on a Way Forward and

the Council of Bishops, we lament any denominational future that does not seek justice for all Christians, and so we call on our denomination to seek yet a better way forward.

All three plans proposed have significant theological, moral and ecclesiological flaws: the Traditionalist Plan expands enforcement of oppression; the Connectional Church Plan resurrects the racist logic of the Central jurisdiction; and the One Church Plan sanctions segregation regionally. Taken together, these plans either completely eliminate the quintessential connectional nature of our denomination, or keep us on a path towards localized congregationalism or flat out schism.

Although the One Church Plan is better than the denomination’s current position, we reject grad-

ualism as a legitimate strategy in seeking justice. We favor long-term justice over illusory short-term political gains, and we cannot endorse doctrines that favor some over the wellbeing of all. Moreover, we reject false unity and oneness premised on the notion that optional exclusions are necessary for the sake of the whole. We believe, with the Apostle Paul, that no member of the Body of Christ, and no conference of the church, can say to one another, “I have no need of you.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

We advance and endorse, therefore, The Simple Plan to remove all restrictive language that excludes LGBTQIA+ Christians from full participation in the life of the United Methodist Church.”

For more information on The Simple Plan, please visit:

<https://um-forward.org>

Dates to Remember . . .

09/02—Worship at 9:30 a.m., Communion will be served.

09/02—6:30 p.m., The Gathering—an hour of meditation, scripture, silence & music in the style of Taize (chant-like)

09/03—The church office will be closed in honor of Labor Day

09/09—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

09/16—6:45 a.m., breakfast service at PATH West LA

09/16—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

09/20—6:30 p.m., Ad Council meeting

09/22—11 am to 4:30 p.m.—Asian Cultural Festival at West Los Angeles UMC—free admission! (1913 Purdue Ave., LA 90025)

09/23—Worship at 9:30 a.m. After worship, a workshop on Scripture Journaling!

9/30—No Sunday Worship in the sanctuary! We will be at the 5K Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention & Awareness at 7:00 a.m. (see page 2 for details)

4 Paths of Discipleship & the Food Pantry

Our local LAX food pantry needs community donations. You can make a difference to a hungry family in your area!

The most-needed non-perishables right now are:

- peanut butter – 16 oz (no glass jars)
- canned pasta sauce (no glass jars)
- canned meals – ravioli, beef stew, chili, spaghetti
- canned veggies – corn, peas, green beans
- individual drinks – fruit juice boxes, small Gatorades
- tuna in cans or pouches

Donations can be dropped off at

La Tijera on Sunday mornings, during The Gathering (our evening service in the style of Taize on the 1st Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m.) or at one of our small group studies.

In addition to the items listed above, the LAX Food Pantry also gratefully accepts monetary donations to keep this important service to the community running.

One of the ways we model our commitment to Christ at La Tijera UMC is through building on four paths of discipleship. The four paths consist of Worship, Spiritual Growth, Relationships and Mission/Service/Justice. We build worship

through our attendance, consistency and hospitality. We grow our spiritual lives through study, scripture, discipleship huddles, and practices such as scripture journaling, prayer beads & “praying in color.” We grow relationally through small groups and fellowship. We are active in mission, service and justice issues by supporting and partnering with the LAX Food Pantry, Westside Food Bank, PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), suicide prevention & awareness, and being a reconciling community who works for justice and full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people. We encourage everyone to grow in discipleship this month—chose a path to explore today!

"There are as many paths to God as there are souls on earth."

- Sufi Proverb

Alive & Running!

On Sunday, September 30th, we invite you to join us at the Alive & Running 5K Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention & Awareness—we will not hold our worship service in the sanctuary—we will be at the starting line of the 5K!

We will meet at the race location the morning of the 30th, lift up a prayer together, then walk, run, stroll, jog, laugh, and

share stories as we raise awareness and money for suicide prevention.

If you would like to support Team La Tijera UMC—here's how you can do it! Our Team page is up and running! To join Team La Tijera or to support them, visit: <http://support.didihirsch.org/aliveandrunning> and search for Team La Tijera UMC or search for the name of a member. Our website also has a

link to the Alive & Running race!

Pastor Lyda is once again the Team Captain and is excited (as always!) about raising funds for suicide awareness and prevention.

Become a part of Team La Tijera—or sponsor a walker—and support suicide prevention & awareness programs!



Last Year's Team

Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk

Save the date for the 28th Annual Westside Food Bank's Hunger Walk! On Sunday, October 21st, La Tijera United Methodist is walking to fight hunger!

Registration, entertainment and activities will begin at 12 noon, and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. The 28th Annual Hunger Walk will take place at Ocean View Park, 2701 Barnard Way—just south of Ocean Park Blvd., on the east side of Barnard Way at the beach in Santa Monica.

Team La Tijera United Methodist Church is walking for the Westside Food Bank and our local LAX Food Pantry.

If you would like to join in the fun and join Team La Tijera, please visit:

<https://westsidefoodbank> and search for La Tijera United Methodist Church.

Registration is free—during registration, you can join Team La Tijera.

Westside Food Bank provides food for over 100,000 people in West LA County each year. Every dollar raised provides 4 meals for our neighbors in need.

Help us raise funds and awareness as we walk together to end hunger. Join Team La Tijera UMC!



“Unafraid” by Adam Hamilton

Truth is, a mere handful of fears work for us—fear of stepping in front of a bus, for example, or not taking care of our health. But the vast majority—fear of others, of failure, of the future—have almost no basis in reality, yet tie us in knots and steal our peace of mind. These fears, experts say, are often vestiges of primitive ‘fight, flight, or freeze’ instincts that, mostly, no longer apply. Making matters worse, our hyper fractious era of hate media, divisive politics, and multiplying natural disasters wreak

havoc on our state of mind, leaving us troubled and unhappy.

Fortunately there’s good news. Pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton shows in *Unafraid*, we can escape the echo chamber of anxiety and dread. With insight, intention and faith, we can learn to overcome what oppresses us, and live with courage and hope.

Drawing on fresh research, psychology, biblical principles, and his long experience shepherding a diverse faith community in Red State America, Hamilton helps readers

untangle the knots of fear and truly embrace Jesus’s recurring counsel: “Do not be afraid.”

Unafraid Book & DVD study will take place on Sundays at 11:15 a.m., beginning on Sunday, October 7th and continuing through Sunday, November 11th (no class on October 21st).

Books are \$13.00 each, but no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. For more information or to RSVP and reserve a book, please email:

INFO@LATIJERAUMC.ORG

Hope is hearing the melody of the future; faith is dancing to that melody here and now.
- Theological Rubem Alves

Scripture Journaling

After worship on September 23rd, you are invited to a workshop on scripture journaling.

As part of La Tijera’s discipleship plan, we explore different ways to mature and grow in our faith. This month, we will explore scripture journaling.

Scripture journaling is one way

to recognize how God is working in your life. We will encounter scripture in new ways through personal reflection, prayer, art, doodling, and writing down our thoughts and questions.

Scripture journaling is a way to write or draw your thoughts and impressions and discover where

God is working in your life. You don’t have to be logical or worry about grammar—you simply express yourself through writing and/or drawing.

Supplies will be provided ... come and grow through scripture journaling.

In November, we will explore the spiritual discipline of “praying in color!”

La Tijera United Methodist Church

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We are a Reconciling church!
ALL are welcome here.



From Lyda . . .

I recently attended a local community meeting where a presentation was made on a proposed use of a city lot at the Westchester Municipal Building for a Safe Parking LA program. Safe Parking LA is non-profit organization which coordinates safe parking on underutilized lots throughout the city. The Safe Parking programs address the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness in their vehicles, and protecting them from being victimized while they sleep. They prevent vehicle dwellers from falling further into homelessness and becoming encampment dwellers who will be needing additional services and stabilizing measures to get back into houses.

The proposal at the municipal building is for six vehicles in a parking lot which is currently being used for parking city vehicles. It is a gated and locked area, and is not a part of parking areas for the existing library, park or municipal buildings.

While I believe that Safe Parking is

wonderful program beneficial in our current struggle with homelessness, I understand that there are a myriad of opinions on how Los Angeles should be dealing with the homelessness crisis. Leading up to the recent community meeting, there were many opinions and suggestions posted online regarding the Safe Parking proposal and homelessness in general.

Most of the responses I read were negative, fearful and opposed to assisting vehicle dwellers (or the homeless in general). Many of the posters did not have information about the Safe Parking program before deciding that it should not be allowed to happen. Many believed that this program was a gateway to more and more homeless coming into the community, with all the problems which a greater influx of homeless would bring.

In the end, the community council voted to endorse a Safe Parking LA program at the suggested site.

The next day, posts again reflected fear/

anger about how the city is dealing with the homeless with statements saying that the meeting was full of the "pro homeless," and that "the meeting was rigged."

I understand the frustration and challenges when it comes to homelessness. I will share that cleaning up human excrement and "stored" shopping carts at the church are challenging and horrible. However, I believe that one of the great things about Los Angeles is our incredible diversity. I know that I will not agree with some on how to deal with the homeless crisis, nor will they agree with me. And that's okay. But I wonder what it would look like if each of us, whether for or against any given issue, could enter into respectful, non-judgmental engagement. I wonder what would it look like if we could come together in the spirit of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, and be able to truthfully say, "If your heart is as my heart, take my hand." Take my hand so we can walk together in disagreement and love . . . and just maybe find ways to deal with life's challenges together.