

Bishops issue letter pledging to uphold discipline of the United Methodist Church

A group of United Methodist bishops today issued a letter calling for deeper conversations regarding new expressions of Methodist witness. They pledge to uphold the order and discipline of the church while recognizing that the United Methodist Church is broken.

Bishop Scott J. Jones, one of the authors of the letter, has been proposing a multiplication of the denomination in order to preserve unity and mission.

“We are a deeply divided and broken church and it is time for us to multiply as a denomination and find new ways of making disciples so we do not continue to polarize over the issue of human sexuality. This is not what anyone wants for the church, but what is necessary for the continued mission of the United Methodist Church,” says Bishop Scott J. Jones, Episcopal Leader of the Texas Conference (Region).

The bishops’ statement today follows a letter released earlier in the week from five Bishop’s in the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church expressing their intent to willfully disregard current aspects of the Book of Discipline beginning in 2020.

In response, this letter advocates for adherence to the Book of Discipline, reinforcing a commitment to find a way to move forward through deeper conversations.

“We need to quit undermining our mission and come together to figure out how to be the people called Methodists in a new way – to multiply so we can make more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the letter states.

The group is calling for additional clergy and members of the United Methodist Church to express their support of the statement by visiting this website www.deeperconversationsumc.org.