



Friends,

I apologize to everyone who experienced harm from my previous email entitled Apocalyptic Homophobia. My first responsibility as an ally and the first responsibility of Mainstream UMC is to do no harm. I take full responsibility for the content of the email. I fell short and I am sorry. I also apologize to my Advisory Board for the criticism they have received on my behalf.

A few friends and colleagues reached out with constructive criticism and opened my eyes to reading my own words through a new lens. They saw, especially in the short 2nd paragraph and the longer 3rd paragraph, language that felt flippant and minimized queer experience and queer personhood. Having re-read it through this lens, I see the harm.

I know full well that unintentional harm is real harm. I offer an unqualified apology. I am committed to doing better.

I look forward to continuing the work for justice and inclusion in the United Methodist Church together.

In Christ, Mark

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