



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

***“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”***

(Ephesians 1:2)

By now you may have heard of the decisions of our on-going Churchwide Assembly regarding issues of human sexuality. We have:

- ~passed the Human Sexuality Social Statement.
- ~passed the “Bound Conscience” resolution.
- ~passed a resolution allowing our church to create a rite for the public recognition of same sex, long-term, monogamous relationships.
- ~passed a resolution allowing our church to ordain persons in a same-sex, long-term, monogamous relationship.
- ~passed a resolution attempting to set all this in order for our future life together.

These actions have been greeted with many emotions as you know. Some are heart-broken. Some are filled with joy. Many are somewhere in between.

It will be good for all our leaders and members to take a bit of a breath over this. Please consider...

- ~Turn the matter over to prayer between you and God.
- ~Find prayer partners to pray with for God’s wisdom and guidance.
- ~Use public worship opportunities to pray as a community of faith.
- ~Talk in small groups with others you respect.
- ~Gather information and facts. Share conversation with others.
- ~Talk with those who see things differently and pray together.
- ~Turn to God in prayer and faith again and again that you may be gifted with the peace of Christ in all that you do and say.

Upon my return please know that I am most willing to gather with congregational leaders, Conferences, Clusters, Rostered Leaders and congregations as we live together in this decision.

My prayers are with you. The hope of Christ is with you. As the writer of Ephesians reminds us:

***“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament from which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”*** (Ephesians 4:15-16)

Remember, the world watches us now to see how we will respond. Let us respond with the confidence of Christ and the promise of his unchanging grace in all that we do and say. Peace be with you+

In Christ’s Undying Love,  
Bishop James A. Justman

