

Keith,

I feel I cannot with integrity allow this January 26, 2010 letter from Bishop Board to Credentialed Leaders go without comment. I can fully affirm parts of this letter, such as the paragraph which begins, "We believe that, as God's people, we need to learn more about what it means to care for those God is bringing into our lives." Yet I find other parts of the letter troubling, especially the statement "We do not support entering into discernment...." This feels contrary to me of what I believe the church should be about.

At our recent congregational meeting we have formally agreed to begin talking about this topic of homosexuality, knowing we have a variety of beliefs and understandings of this in our congregation. We want to learn to talk honestly and respectfully together about difficult topics. In other settings I have heard talk in LMC appropriately urging us to be open to the "fresh wind of the Holy Spirit." It is my hope that Bishop Board could also express their gratefulness for leaders and congregations who are attempting to put this into practice.

May we all experience Christ's peace as we faithfully follow,

Barry Kreider