

## **Leadership Board's Statement in Response to General Conference**

At a special meeting on March 4, 2019, the Leadership Board of BIUMC, after considerable and thoughtful discussion and unanimous consent, approved the following statements in response to the decisions of the recent General Conference of the UMC:

- Bethel International United Methodist Church continues to pray that we will always be welcoming and loving of all people.
- The Leadership Board acknowledges the pain felt by many members of our congregation in response to General Conference's decisions.
- While we acknowledge that not everyone in the congregation is of the same mind concerning human sexuality, the Leadership Board has concerns about the rigidity of the plan approved by General Conference
- Our congregation, as demonstrated by our international focus, and in order to reflect God's kingdom, believes there is room in the church for everyone.
- The Leadership Board is aware of questions about financial support of the denomination. We have asked the Finance Committee to provide information on how apportionments are allocated, since a small percentage of contributions to BIUMC go to the denomination. The Finance Committee is exploring options for those who have concerns about financially supporting the denomination at this time.
- The decisions of General Conference are scheduled to take effect January 1, 2020. However, most of these decisions must be reviewed by the Judicial Council in late April, and the outcome is uncertain. We encourage the Bethel family to pray about how the decisions of the Judicial Council will ultimately affect BIUMC.
- The Leadership Board will continue to keep abreast of developments as they arise and will keep the congregation informed.
- For more information about the General Conference decisions, please refer to [www.UMC.org](http://www.UMC.org).
- As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the Leadership Board.