

An Open Letter to the Emory Community from the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life

Dear Beloved Emory Community:

We write to you as ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church, set aside by the Church for the work of compassion and justice in the world! It is a privilege to fulfill this calling at Emory University, a community that embodies the diversity of God's creation and strives for justice, each day, for all people.

Earlier this week, President Claire Sterk shared with you the recent actions of the United Methodist Church that limit the rights of LGBTQ people in the Church. We are deeply grieved by the Church's actions and confess that we have participated in systematic oppression through our compliance with the Church's unjust policies, even as we have advocated for a fully inclusive Church.

As United Methodist clergypersons who lead religious and spiritual life at Emory, we are compelled to publicly recommit ourselves to be active forces for justice in the Church, at Emory, and in the world. We encourage all of us, including those with little interest in the United Methodist Church, to continue the rich history of religious life at Emory that offers compassion to ALL who are hurting, makes a place at the table for ALL voices and advocates boldly for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people.

To the beloved queer people of Emory University: You are created in the image of the Divine and you are BELOVED! Your gifts and contributions to this community inspire us every single day to live authentically with grace and dignity. We will continue to be your chaplains and we will more boldly advocate for justice in the United Methodist Church and in the world.

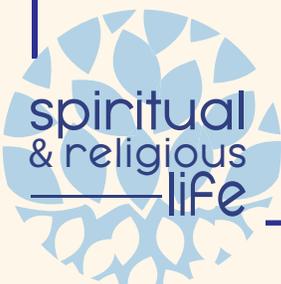
Our prayer is that we will all continue to bear witness to the beauty and power of God's Beloved Community!

Peace,

Lisa Garvin
Acting Dean of the Chapel

Kevin Crawford
Assistant Chaplain

Lyn Pace
Oxford College Chaplain



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