



## Silverdale United Methodist Church

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August 17, 2004

Pacific Northwest Conference

2112 Third Ave. Suite 301

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Dear Bishop Ed Paup and members of the Cabinet:

After many hours, days and weeks of prayerful consideration the Administrative Board of Silverdale United Methodist Church has decided that it is necessary to make a public declaration of our concern regarding the continuing controversy within the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference (PNWAC). The two issues perceived by this body to be central to this controversy are:

- The departure of the leadership of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference from acceptance of the Holy Scriptures as final authority in matters of faith and morals, resulting in moral relativity.
- The failure of our Pacific Northwest Annual Conference to adhere to the United Methodist Book of Discipline as established by General Conference, resulting in an attitude of rebellion in relationship with the general Church. (One prime example is the appointment of self-avowed practicing homosexuals to ministry positions in the conference).

This failure of many of our church leadership to honor their ordination vows in these areas has caused profound distress to our congregation and as a result we are experiencing an exodus of people from our local church. These departures cause pain within our body, hamper our ministry and affect our ability to meet financial obligations for our local expenses and to the Annual Conference.

Our congregation has been vitally and actively engaged within the Methodist denomination since its inception in 1907 and has been proud to be called "Methodist". However, this pride has been damped by an increasing sadness caused by the continuing departure from traditional Wesleyan doctrine and values. Through the years this congregation has remained Christ centered, mission

minded and individually transformational. We have a strong calling to minister healing and wholeness to all persons in whatever area of need they may have and to help them experience transformation in their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the 2004 Annual Conference the topic of apportionments and the local church's responsibility to pay apportionments was continually before us. Obviously, the reduction in funding is of significant concern to the conference. It grieves us that there wasn't equal concern expressed about the loss of opportunities for ministry and the reduction in local church programs that has resulted from the decline of financial support. We believe the loss of this financial support is due to the movement of our conference away from the moral and ethical standards set by our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our desire to encourage and challenge our conference leadership to provide evidence of faith in God's willingness and ability to heal us individually and corporately. This can be accomplished by openly affirming the validity of the Scriptures as guidance in matters of faith and morals and by instructing the Board of Ordained Ministry to mandate that all clergy have integrity when taking their ordination vows, honor their ordination vows while serving in local churches and to uphold the Book Of Discipline as established by our General Conference.

We believe that this action can influence other clergy and laity alike to maintain the kind of lifestyle that will attract others to The United Methodist Church and reverse the exodus of members and loss of financial support that is presently taking place through out our Conference.

In summary, we the laity of Silverdale UMC **do not and will not** support your plans and programs until the conference leadership upholds the Book of Discipline and ensures that all clergy have integrity when taking vows and while serving local churches.

Very sincerely yours,

Donald S. Cosner

Administrative Board Chairman

CC: All PNW Churches

Bishop's Cabinet