



## Statement regarding our disposition of Shared Ministry Giving

Sept 30, 2019

To Members, Friends and Others who have a connection with UMC Red Bank,

In February 2019 a Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) adopted a “Traditional Plan” that increases penalties for clergy who perform same-sex marriages and/or are themselves “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.” As a member of the [Reconciling Ministries Network](#), the UMC of Red Bank seeks to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ’s inclusive love. We reject the “Traditional Plan” as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and are actively engaged in resisting its implementation.

As a tangible expression of this resistance, on June 24, 2019 the UMC of Red Bank’s Church Council voted to withhold a portion of our contributions to the Greater New Jersey Conference. Specifically: 33% of our Shared Ministry apportionment will be set aside in a fully separate account to be released in full, **and only**, for Shared Ministry purposes should the UMC General Conference vote for full acceptance of LGBTQ+ members and clergy into the life of our denomination. The motion that was approved by our Church Council allows for partial release of these monies for Shared Ministry purposes should we see movement toward more inclusion. The entire motion passed by our Church Council may be found [here](#).

The UMC of Red Bank recognizes there are differences among us, but we believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We celebrate our human family’s diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect as we work diligently to make the larger United Methodist Church inclusive and welcoming of all.

Sincerely,  
UMC Red Bank Church Council