



**Response to the Western Jurisdiction  
College of Bishops  
Safe Harbor Declaration**



In prayerful consideration as we approach January 1, 2020, the Appointive Cabinet of The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church responds to the Western Jurisdiction Safe Harbor Declaration.<sup>1</sup> We remain heartbroken by the harm caused by the 2019 Special Session of General Conference to our LGBTQ+ siblings. We have witnessed how the decisions made at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference have caused damage in the lives of our pastors and local congregations.

While we acknowledge that across our Desert Southwest Conference we are not all of one mind in matters related to human sexuality, we do believe in the presence and power of God's Spirit to lead us as we strive to be one in Christ.

As the Appointive Cabinet:

We commit to standing in the gap<sup>2</sup> with our Bishop, Robert T. Hoshibata, in his work to bring healing, transformation, and renewal to our Annual Conference,

We fully affirm the Safe Harbor Declaration issued by the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops,

We commit to applying the Safe Harbor Declaration as a guide for our actions, as we fulfill our role as an extension of the bishop's office<sup>3</sup>,

We trust in God's leading us as we live into the vision of our Conference, which states that God is calling us to be a Courageous Church: loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope.

Rev. N. Susan Brims, East District Superintendent, Dean of the Appointive Cabinet

Rev. Dan Morley, North District Superintendent

Rev. Mark Conrad, South District Superintendent

Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent

Rev. David McPherson, Director of New and Vital Faith

<sup>1</sup><http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/safe-harbor-declaration/>

<sup>2</sup><https://dscumc.org/blog/2019/10/01/living-in-the-gap/>

<sup>3</sup>*Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016, ¶ 401 & ¶ 403.2*