

UNION

May 10, 2016

Bishop Jane Allen Middleton
The New York Conference, UMC
20 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Dear Bishop Middleton:

As co-chairs of the Alumni/ae Council of Union Theological Seminary, we are writing to express our deep appreciation for the faithful and courageous witness of the 15 signatories to the “‘We Are!’ Open Letter to the People of The United Methodist Church.”

We applaud their determination to call the church to greater inclusivity and hospitality, especially with regard to its LBGQT leaders and members, and we commit to stand in solidarity with them from within our own faith traditions, offering our support, encouragement, and ongoing prayers that justice and compassion will win the day.

It is a matter of pride that we note that two of the signatories, Bruce Lamb and Lea Matthews, will be graduating this month with their M.Div. degrees from Union, and we urge you and other UMC leaders to welcome them as full colleagues in ministry in good standing.

The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has had a long and impressive record of justice making for LBGQT and other persons who have struggled against discrimination, oppression, and various forms of injustice. We urge you to keep the faith and continue the struggle, which is of life-and-death importance not only to the 15 who signed the Open Letter, but to all of us. May gospel values prevail!

With best wishes, and in good faith,

Sincerely,

Seth Pickens

Rev. Dr. Seth Pickens '06

Linda Thomas

Rev. Dr. Linda Thomas '81

Co-chairs, The Alumni/ae Council
Union Theological Seminary

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

3041 Broadway | New York, NY 10027
(212) 280-1403 | utsnyc.edu

