

Good morning. I have read the letter and directive from Bishop William Love, dated November 10, 2018. While I would like to say a lot about it, this is not the appropriate time or forum. A few brief remarks, however, are necessary.

In our great nation, we are all entitled to our opinions. As Christians, we should love and respect others, even if we disagree. Last winter, as we started the Rector-search process, the Vestry met with Bishop Love to respectfully address his opposition to same gender marriage and how it may impact Bethesda calling a new Rector. Now that Bishop Love has refused to abide by Resolution B012, making the Albany Diocese the only Episcopal diocese in the nation to have a blanket prohibition on same gender marriage, I felt compelled to write to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. I expressed to the Presiding Bishop my concerns about Bishop Love's current stance, particularly how it relates to Bethesda. You too can write to the Presiding Bishop or Bishop Love if you wish. Additionally, after Father Vang returns from vacation, the Vestry will host a meeting of the Bethesda congregation to hear from you about this subject.

You should also know that following Bishop Love's letter, Presiding Bishop Curry issued a statement. Presiding Bishop Curry said that, along with other leaders in The Episcopal Church, he is "assessing the implications of [Bishop Love's] statement and will make determinations about appropriate actions soon." It is, therefore, prudent for us to exercise some patience.

Bishop Curry further wrote in his statement, and I quote him: "We are committed to the principle of full and equal access to, and inclusion in, the sacraments for all of the baptized children of God, including our LGBTQ siblings. For as St. Paul reminds us in Galatians 3, 'in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.'"

Whether you agree or disagree with Bishop Love on same gender marriage, we must remember that we come to church not to worship bishops, priests, or other human beings. We are here for Jesus Christ, and to love our fellow brothers and sisters.