



# Divided Houses

Learning from Divided Houses  
Luke 11.17

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# Context of Luke 11

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- ❖ Jesus casts a demon out of man (14).
- ❖ Jesus is accused of working with Satan (15).
- ❖ Jesus points out the ridiculousness of the charge:
  - ❖ The accusation is illogical (17-18).
  - ❖ The accusation had unintended consequences (19).
  - ❖ Jesus' work of casting out demons immediately preceded the coming kingdom (20).

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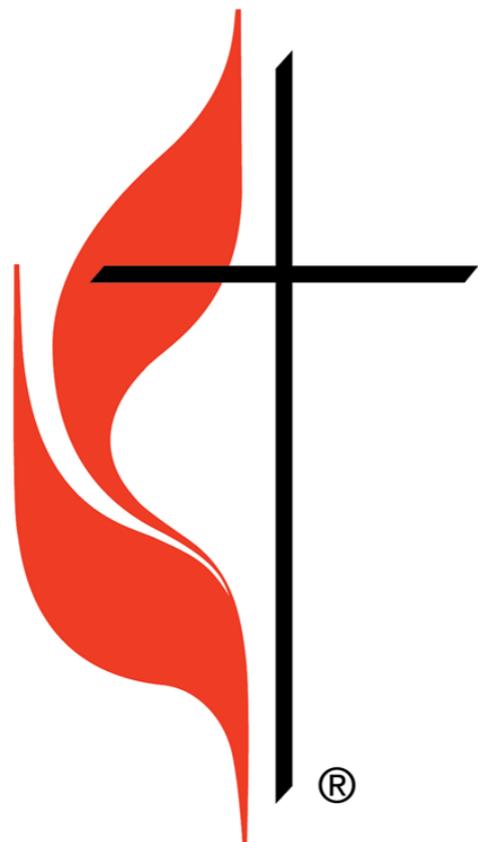
# About Divided Houses

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- ❖ Divided houses can't stand.
- ❖ Houses need a solid foundation.
- ❖ Structural issues eventually become evident.



# United Methodist Church



## 2019 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

- ❖ Special conference held Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis.
- ❖ Focus on sexuality.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ The church voted “to toughen prohibitions on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy.”<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Repercussions already being felt:

<sup>1</sup><http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>

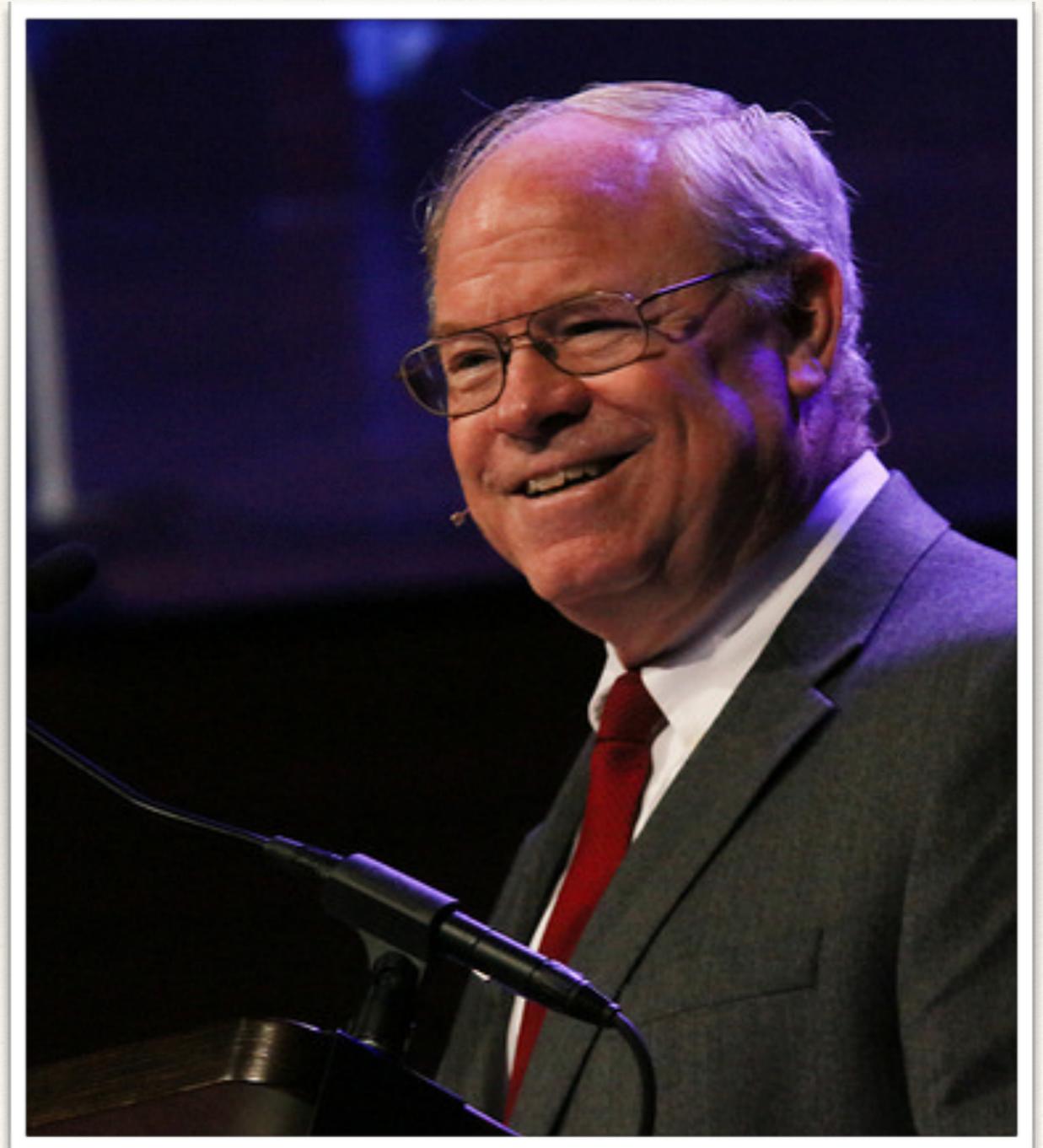
<sup>2</sup><https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/02/united-methodists-fracture-lgbt-plan-rejected>

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# A Divided House - UMC

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**“Traditional believers regard scripture as being the ultimate authority... When it comes to something like our teachings on human sexuality and what the Bible spells out as the boundaries there, those are essentials.”<sup>1</sup>**



Keith Boyette

Head, Wesleyan Covenant Association

<sup>1</sup>ibid.

# A Divided House - UMC

“I’ve listened to a lot of people talk about the Bible as though the rest of us don’t love the Bible, read the Bible, interpret the Bible, understand the Bible.”<sup>1</sup>

**RESPECT?** **SUBMIT?**

<sup>1</sup>ibid.



Adam Hamilton, Pastor  
Church of the Resurrection (UMC)

# Mennonite Church USA



**Mennonite  
Church  
USA**

- ❖ **Mennonites/Anabaptists**
- ❖ **Mennonite churches struggling with questions about sexuality.<sup>1</sup>**
- ❖ **2005 saw a congregation (Hyattsville) disciplined for accepting homosexual members.**
- ❖ **2015 issue - readmit the congregation, remove the congregation, or dissolve.**

<sup>1</sup><https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/03/gay-and-mennonite/388060/>

# Mennonite Church USA

“All of us have been waiting for Hyattsville to repent, and they haven’t. We’re all reluctant – we’d rather be together.”

“I was crying over the soberness of the day,” the conference minister told me, “over the reality that we are so deeply divided, but most specifically because we were saying good-bye and releasing from our membership three congregations that day. I was living with the knowledge that this probably is not the last of the congregations who will ask to leave.”

“Anything that biblical writers were addressing had nothing to do with modern same-sex couples.”

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# Two Significant Points

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- 1) **Homosexual activity is sinful and thus contrary to Christ and His word.**
  - ❖ **Romans 1.26ff identifies homosexual activity as sinful behavior contrary to God.**
  - ❖ **1 Corinthians 6.9f identifies homosexual activity as sinful, just like idolatry, thievery, and drunkenness.**
    - ❖ **It also identifies that such behavior can be controlled, ceased, and forgiven (6.11).**
  - ❖ **Sex is reserved for the marriage relationship (Heb. 13.4) which consists of one male and one female (Mt. 19.4ff).**

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# Two Significant Points

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- 2) We can't follow Christ and find that unity without building on His foundation.
- ❖ People in both denominations find themselves struggling between their church and God's word.
  - ❖ Note this issue which came up, independently, in both the UMC and Mennonite controversies:

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“Other delegates, however, argued that conservatives focus on this issue **to the exclusion of others, such as divorce**, and that conservative Methodists are perfectly willing to interpret the Bible’s teachings on other issues...”

<sup>2</sup><https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/02/united-methodists-fracture-lgbt-plan-rejected>

Mennonite

“But as another woman pointed out, the amendment might have unintended consequences. “I stand here a sinner: **I am divorced, and I am an adultress [sic]**,” she said.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/03/gay-and-mennonite/388060/>

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# Two Significant Points

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- 2) We can't follow Christ and find that unity without building on His foundation.
- ❖ People in both denominations find themselves struggling between their church and God's word.
  - ❖ We must stand firmly on Christ and His word!
    - ❖ Marriage, Divorce, Homosexuality, Fellowship — all of these questions are significant... and biblical!
    - ❖ Ephesians 2.19-22