

Thursday - April 2

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

I have been experiencing a feeling of loss in the past year. Loss of purpose as my travel to Haiti has been on hold due to civil unrest. Loss of the chance to share Haiti with the PUMC mission team. Loss of family. And finally, loss of church when the United Methodist Church made an initial decision regarding same gender relationships. It was not an easy decision for my family to leave PUMC and we felt very disconnected. It had taken previous rejection and at least two years to find a home church who accepted our non-traditional family when we moved to Dublin in 2009.

For about six months, we attended another church that has a great community outreach, a very dynamic worship experience and claimed to welcome everyone. It was in the fine print, that no one spoke of, that there was an actual written line excluding anyone who chooses to be in a same gender relationship from hosting/attending home groups. The people were friendly, but it was clear we were not able to get as involved in fellowship as we would have liked. We were going through a very difficult time and I was feeling such loss when we walked back in the doors of PUMC. We were welcomed back with open arms, love and encouragement that only comes from the kind of authentic unconditional love that God calls us to have in the Bible. Each week another member would remind us we were missed. There are no words that can truly show my gratitude for the sense of belonging I have found at PUMC in spite of the decisions that may be taking place in the denomination.

I don't know what the future holds for the United Methodist denomination, but I know that whatever it is, PUMC is a place I call home because the people, or as I like to say, my church family, always seems to share the Fruit of the Spirit. Isn't that what we are all called to do?

Amy

Prayer: Lord, thank you for giving us a place to call "home" at Powell UMC. Thank you for the friendships that have formed as a result of our membership. Please help us to continue to follow Your will and encourage each other. Amen.