

# Seeing a Way Forward: Bishop Harvey

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Many United Methodists feel anxiety as the denomination heads toward the special General Conference on Feb. 23-26, 2019.

Louisiana Area Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, president-designate of the Council of Bishops, offers her thoughts on where we are as a church. Harvey spoke with UM News as part of a video series featuring different perspectives of church leaders on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

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### ['God will do a new thing'](#)

As United Methodists head into the 2019 Special General Conference, Louisiana Area Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey says it's important for church leaders to assure their members that God is in control.

### ['A heart of peace'](#)

As The United Methodist Church approaches this major legislative gathering that will determine the future of the denomination, Bishop Harvey hopes all sides coming to the table don't consider themselves to be gearing up for battle.

### ['I want them to have a church like I know'](#)

Bishop Harvey hopes General Conference delegates consider the kind of legacy they can leave to future United Methodists.

### [Self and spiritual care is important](#)

United Methodist bishops have a lot on their plate as the church approaches major legislative gatherings that will determine the future of the denomination. Bishop Harvey shares some of the ways she takes care of both body and spirit during such a hectic time.

### [Thoughts on the One Church Plan](#)

"While the One Church Plan isn't perfect, it's the one that comes the closest" to including everyone on all sides of the church's debate on homosexuality Bishop Harvey says. The United Methodist Council of Bishops has endorsed the One Church Plan, which allows decisions about whether to ordain LGBTQ clergy or to officiate at same-gender unions to be made closer to the local level.

### ['Can we be in covenant and not agree?'](#)

Bishop Harvey says one of the most unique aspects of United Methodism is the room for differing interpretations of Scripture while still reaching people for Jesus Christ. With decisions approaching affecting the future of the church, Harvey hopes United Methodists can continue to remain together in mission while not agreeing on everything.

*This is the first in a series of video interviews by United Methodist News Service.*



*Video image of  
Bishop Cynthia  
Fierro Harvey  
courtesy of United  
Methodist News  
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