



Wallingford United Methodist Church

2115 N. 42nd Street, Seattle, WA 98103

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January 28, 2006

*A Reconciling
Congregation*

The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church
c/o Keith Boyette
Secretary, Judicial Council
10501 Plank Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

Rev. James Carter
Pastor

Louis Magor
Music Director

Kari Olson
*Minister for Children,
Youth, and Families*

Sue Sherbrooke
Michelle Thoreson
Lay Leaders

Larisa Wasnerski
Office Manager

Rev. Suzanne Seaton, MSW
Deacon

Dear Members of the Judicial Council:

We want to add our voice to those who have expressed sadness and anger over Judicial Decision 1032. We grieve the implications of this decision for both the United Methodist Church in general and in particular for those Children of God who will suffer the pain and insult of being denied membership to the church. We are unable to reconcile this decision with the teachings of Christ and the promise of the Book of Discipline that all persons are of sacred worth.

We ask that you reconsider this decision for it is our conviction that doing so will “prevent a manifest injustice”. For too long now large numbers of our precious brothers and sisters have sought solace, respect, comfort, and support from this sacred institution, yet they have been refused the right to these kindnesses. The promise of “Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors” remains closed to them by ungrounded and un-Christian conditions.

It is our deepest prayer that you re-examine the intent and word of this decision. The United Methodist Church must at the very least allow membership to all persons seeking it, for anything less is simply elitism enrobed in a perverse misuse of Christ’s message of acceptance.

Yours in Christ,

Terry Heuer
Chair, WUMC Administrative Board
On behalf of the governing body of Wallingford United Methodist Church

Cc: Pacific Northwest Annual Conference,
Pacific Northwest Reconciling Ministries Network