

Vote to stand on the side of love**Letter to the editor****Editor:**

To First United Methodist Church members: The vote at First Methodist Sunday is much more than a “family matter” about “accountability.” It is a vote for freedom and love.

You cannot profess to love LGBTQ community members calling them “children of God, too” and oppose marriage equality/leadership access. Those who insist that they are “forced” to vote one way because of accountability to a Book must hold themselves to a higher accountability — to your heart and, more importantly, to the hearts of those you claim to hold dear.

Let the real power at First Methodist not be our former mayor Bill Hatcher, but your hearts. Too often, implicit bias is hidden behind “just following orders” or “concern over money/property” when the underlying issue is just plain old prejudice.

Jesus was pretty strong on the Golden Rule — vote on marriage, ordination and leadership the way you would expect LGBTQ members to vote on yours.

Be people, not “sheeple.”

Greg Brock Statesboro

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