



First United Methodist Church

What will FUMC look like as a Reconciling Congregation?

This question and others like it, has been asked often since we began this endeavor. The short answer is that FUMC will look like and be whatever God wants it to be. We believe FUMC is called to make every effort to become as inclusive as Christ, and by doing so, we will honor our Creator and bring more disciples to His table of grace.

Fundamental to the idea of a Reconciling Team is increasing awareness of FUMC members and friends to the challenges that LGBTQ people face, especially when considering whether to attend or join a UMC church. We pray that awareness will lead to a broader understanding of and appreciation for the obstacles and struggles faced by those in the LGBTQ community, and that this change in perspective will translate into attitudes and actions to wholly embrace and more fully support them.

WHO

A Reconciling Congregation is a church where all people, regardless of race, gender identity, marital status, or other aspects of diversity are equally valued and are equal recipients of God's forgiveness, mercy, and love. It is a place where LGBTQ people are no better or worse, and no more or less equal than anyone else. It is a place that shows respect for and shares the joy of the love in the lives of LGBTQ people, just as we do for those in heterosexual relationships.

HOW

The Reconciling Team will continue offering opportunities to learn and share with our church and our community, with the goal of banishing the stigma felt by those in the LGBTQ community and providing a safe place where all people are loved and accepted as they are.

WHY

This change is about ministry and spiritual growth. We believe that the LGBTQ community has suffered greatly at the hands of well-meaning Christians and others. Everyone needs the Good News in their lives. But how can those in the LGBTQ community be faulted for a reluctance to seek Him when they persistently face judgment and criticism in His church? This journey has caused many of us to challenge who we are as Christians, what we believe, and how to most faithfully understand and live out the Bible.