

Why should we become a Reconciling Ministry?

To extend God's fully inclusive love and unconditional welcome - inviting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people into affirming spaces in which they can worship, serve, and find faith community

Jesus intentionally invited all and, as followers of Jesus, so should we. Our United Methodist Book of Discipline proclaims, "all persons are of sacred worth" and that "We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

To affirm and model LGBTQ+ justice and affirmation

In May of 2024, the General Conference voted to remove anti-LGBTQ+ language and policies. While this eliminated *mandated* discrimination, the *option* to discriminate is still available. Clergy, local churches, and committees engaged in the ordination process will make individual decisions about LGBTQ+ justice and inclusion. LGBTQ+ United Methodists still lack safety, protection, full inclusion, and affirmation. Even if unintentional, the absence of a clear Reconciling witness suggests that we support the option to discriminate. As we continue to change hearts and minds, Reconciling churches serve as safe and affirming spaces and model the future Church we're working to become.

So our current neighbors, new residents, and out of town guests can find us

RMN loves connecting people and churches. Being listed on our website allows visitors to find you when searching by city or state. Because of the harm the institutional church has done to LGBTQ+ persons, visiting a church is a risk that requires great courage. No matter how affirming a church may be on the inside, LGBTQ+ friends and allies won't experience that affirmation if it's not first expressed through an intentional commitment and an outward invitation. It's important to place our welcome mats on the outside of the building, not just the inside.

To build and strengthen relationships within our church families

The Reconciling process takes seriously the fundamental importance of human relationships. The wholeness God envisions is unrealizable where brokenness in human relationships persists. We can help overcome separation and find healing and wholeness in these meaningful conversations that lead to affiliating with RMN.

To impact momentum throughout the Reconciling movement

Our heritage of connectionalism teaches us that we are stronger together than we are apart. Affiliating with RMN provides strength in resources, community, and momentum. It multiplies the love for LGBTQ+ people and the advocacy for LGBTQ+ justice. Becoming a Reconciling Ministry often inspires neighboring congregations and communities to engage in their own conversations resulting in more and more affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ United Methodists.

To live out our Wesleyan heritage of evangelism

Founder John Wesley said, "there is no holiness but social holiness" and instilled in us a responsibility to spread social holiness throughout the world, not as enforcers of a holiness code, but as grateful and generous agents of God's inclusive love and transforming grace.

To fulfill our baptismal covenant, accepting the freedom and power God gives "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves"

One way we fulfill our baptismal covenant is by publicly resisting un-Christ-like practices, and standing in solidarity with marginalized people. We're called to speak out against injustice as being incompatible with God's love for all people.

To live as followers of Christ, who modeled and called us to love and serve, most especially those pushed to the margins

"Love your neighbor as yourself." "Now go and do likewise."

To move beyond welcoming to affirming, beyond inclusion to advocacy, beyond private to public, and beyond local to global.

