



Reconciling/welcoming statement samples

Here is the RMN mission statement:

***Reconciling Ministries Network is a national grassroots organization
that exists to enable full participation of people
of all sexual orientations and gender identities
in the life of the United Methodist Church,
both in policy and practice.***

To be publicly known as “reconciling” your statement must be specific in its welcome. Some statements welcome “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities” while others use LGBT language. You may choose to borrow from the RMN mission statement above.

The following sample statements have many similarities, but also differences that fit their local situations. Some speak to the larger UMC.

Asbury UMC, Charleston, West Virginia <http://www.asburywv.org/>

Mission Statement:

“The people of Asbury are called to share God’s love as we minister with and to all persons in the community where the church is located and beyond, providing worship, nurture, fellowship, and service. Our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God’s creation. We cooperate in ministry with other local churches and groups of God’s people as we participate in the worldwide mission of Christ.”

Williston Federated Church, Williston, Vermont

This congregation is both United Methodist and United Church of Christ

The Williston Federated Church embraces Jesus’ message that God loves and accepts every person. Jesus calls us to the ministry of reconciliation and grace. Therefore, we invite and welcome all persons of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation.

First United Methodist Church, Corvallis Oregon

This church is a Reconciling Congregation and welcomes all persons into full participation in the life of the congregation regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental condition and is devoted to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God.

-- October 1, 1992

Lexington UMC, Lexington, Massachusetts. <http://www.lexumc.org/>

Our Reconciling Intention

All persons are individuals of sacred worth. We affirm Jesus' example of love without reservation and covenant to deal compassionately and justly with each other. Therefore, this inclusive and nurturing community of faith will continue to welcome all persons of any age, gender, race, ethnic origin, economic reality, family status, sexual orientation, diverse ability or social standing as full participants in the life and work of this reconciling congregation.

First United Methodist Church, Vermillion, South Dakota <http://www.umcvermillion.org>

The Vermillion First United Methodist church is a church dedicated to reaching out to all God's Children. As a United Methodist church we are proud to be a church with open hearts, open minds, and open doors and we invite you to become a part of God's amazing grace through our church family!

Our church is a very active church with many places for people of all ages: families, children, youth, college students, adults, senior citizens, and more—you all have a place here in the Vermillion United Methodist church.

As a church we are proud to celebrate diversity as we work hard to be an inclusive church dedicated to including and reaching out to all people regardless of race, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

St John's UMC, Lubbock, Texas <http://www.stjohnslubbock.org/>

We affirm that through God's redeeming love for all, we are one in Christ. We respect the inherent and valuable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.

As we journey toward reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. We welcome all persons to full participation in the life and ministries of St. John's United Methodist Church.

At the same time, we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

As a Reconciling Congregation, we believe that we are being reconciled to God and to one another.

"All this is from God, who reconciled us . . . through Christ, and who gives us the ministry of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:18.

Broad Street UMC, Columbus, Ohio

Broad Street UMC is a diverse community welcoming persons of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, family configurations, economic abilities, and mental and physical capacities. People with and without homes are welcome, as are guests from out of town and off the street.

Welcome!

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world. **We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education.** We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace.

We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church or in society. **We invite**

all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.



This official welcoming statement and CHUMC's affiliation with [The Reconciling Ministries Network](#) was ratified by the Charge Conference on November 2, 2005.

Reconciling Statement of a Sunday School class:

Epiphany Class, First UMC, Austin, Texas Couples and singles in their 40s and up. Spirituality and scholarship combined in lively discussion and sharing on a variety of topics, with an emphasis on community service. Epiphany is a member of Reconciling Ministries, which encourages the full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Reconciling Statement for Annual Conference groups:

Grace For All: Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

We the members of GRACE FOR ALL, advocate for the inclusion and full participation of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the Christian Church, both in policy and practice. We aspire to create a welcoming space for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons and their families in the community of Christ. By fostering opportunities for dialogue through education, ministry, advocacy and witness, we seek to bridge the division in the Church on this matter.

RUMOLA, "Reconciling United Methodists of the Lincoln Area (Nebraska)"

As the Reconciling United Methodists of the Lincoln area and beyond (RUMOLA), we seek to be a community of Christ to all who desire a fully inclusive church.

We hope to be a

Community of Reconciling United Methodists and friends, Lincoln, NE and beyond
Safe Sanctuary for ALL God's children
Support Group for each other
Network of friends through group e-mail and information
Gathering of folks for workshops, sharing meals, discussion, and worship
Group that advocates for and with our gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual sisters and brothers in Christ
Strong voice to encourage others to claim their voices
Community that is welcoming and affirming to persons of all sexual orientations
Community that reaches out to others and encourages others

Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (B-WARM)

Mission Statement

B-WARM seeks to change church policies and practices to ensure the full participation of all, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, in the ministry and life of the United Methodist Church, particularly in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Vision Statement

As United Methodists, we seek to model a more faithful Conference as we

- *encourage dialogue and education about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues,
- *increase the number of Reconciling Congregations,
- *stand in solidarity with all who have been excluded or marginalized by the church, and
- * work with the Reconciling Ministries Network and the United Methodist Church

to foster Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

<http://www.bwarm.org/about.htm>