

Instructions and questions for allies

[*If you are an LGBTQ person, please find LGBTQ instructions here.*](#)

As the global United Methodist Church anticipates proposals from the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops in advance of the called General Conference (Feb 2019), there are voices that are not being heard - the voices and stories of LGBTQ United Methodists and their allies--especially those who live in the South.

Thanks for agreeing to be a part of our plan to fix that. :)

In this video project we are asking LGBTQ United Methodists, especially those from across the South, to record themselves on video answering the same five simple questions. These videos will then be sent out to the world via social media, emails, and web-based campaigns, with the goal of getting them on the screens--not just of those who already believe and hope for a fully inclusive UMC, but also those who remain unsure.

[Here is an example](#) of what we hope the final video will look like once you have recorded it and we have edited it.

What you will need: a smartphone, a tripod (or something to prop your phone up while you shoot), good lighting, a quiet space to shoot, and a plan of what to say.

This document provides detailed guidelines to help you record the answers to our questions and then send the video file to us.

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A. The Questions

Please record your answers to 5 introductory questions, and then the 5 main questions.

1. What is your name? (First or First/Last)
2. What is your gender identity?
3. What is your sexual orientation?
4. Where do you live? (City, State and/or Annual Conference)
5. What is your connection with the UMC? (current church and/or childhood church)

For example...

My name is [.....], I am a [non-binary person, queer woman, bisexual man], I live in [City, State], and I attend [Church Name].

Timing Prepare a **30 to 45-second** response per question. 30-45 seconds might sound brief, but you can actually say a lot in that much time. We want our audience to remain fully engaged, so carefully selecting statements that both have an impact, and are as brief as possible is a worthy goal. We recommend writing out and timing each of your responses.

Questions Please try to answer all five questions. If you find answers are not coming easily for one or more questions, please contact your Regional Organizer who will be happy to help you brainstorm answers. If you prefer, just video the answers to the questions you feel most confident and comfortable answering.

Questions for Allies

1. How did The UMC form your understanding of the LGBTQ community?
2. How has your perspective about the LGBTQ community and full inclusion evolved? How did The UMC help or hinder that process.
3. As a United Methodist committed to full inclusion, in what ways is your ability to make disciples for the transformation of the world affected by our current polity?
4. How do you feel when you hear fellow United Methodists discuss the possibility of a church split?
5. Given the upcoming called General Conference in 2019, what are your hopes for The UMC?

B. The Space/Room

1. Good lighting is critical - make the light work for you

- Try as much as possible to shoot your video in brightly lit areas.
- Be careful not to point the camera directly at bright light sources.
- Lighting should be stable and steady, preferably from a number of different sources and not just directly overhead.
- Plenty of natural light is best.

2. Peace and quiet

- Find a place in your home or office that is quiet.
- Close all windows and doors
- Turn off any fans, heaters, or other noises in the room
- If you have children, try to shoot when they are napping or at school so you aren't distracted.

3. Background to the video

- The perfect place to deliver your message is in front of a solid-colored wall. Be aware of your background, take a look and make sure your face is easily seen and there are not any distractions.

C. The Phone

1. Turn off notifications

- Put your phone into airplane mode and/or Do Not Disturb mode to avoid notifications

2. Don't use the phone's zoom capability

- This can create a poor quality video.

3. Battery

- Make sure the phone is fully charged.

4. Memory

- Make sure you have enough available memory to save the video.

D. The Phone Set Up

1. Avoid vertical video syndrome - shoot horizontal, not upright

- We want people to be able to watch your video at full size on a monitor or TV screen, so keep your phone horizontal when you are recording.

2. Keep it smooth and steady

- If you have one, use a tripod, if not...

- Rest your phone on other physical supports like a table, chair, desk, shelf, etc. and make sure it is stable and upright.
- Wherever your phone is resting, the camera should be at the same height as your face, or slightly above pointed down toward your face. Do not shoot from below.
- Have the camera on the phone set to face you, so that you can shoot and watch yourself on the screen at the same time.

3. Record good audio

- If you have a microphone then definitely use it. If not...
- Stay as close to the phone as possible, while ensuring that you are appropriately placed in the screen.

E. Record your videos

1. Shoot a short test before you begin shooting the video, and then watch it

- Check for lighting (bright enough that you can see yourself but not so bright that you look washed out).
- Check for sound (loud enough that you can be heard without any background noise of trucks driving by, kids crying, or TVs in the background).
- Check visuals (remove anything extra or distracting from the shot so your viewer can focus on you and your message).

2. Record the answer to each question as a separate video - it will be easier.

- It's difficult to record all the answers in one take. Aim to record one answer at a time.

3. Rename the video files to indicate the question you have answered

- For example - YourName_Intro, YourName_Q1 and YourName_Q2 etc

F. Find, or take a good headshot

We'll need a headshot to go with your video for the social media publishing. You might have one already, if so great. If not, take one and use the same guidelines we suggested for the video in terms of light and background.

G. Uploading the video and headshot to RMN

Now that you've created your video, you're probably wondering what to do with it. We will have you upload it to our Dropbox location (detailed instructions below). Once it is uploaded, the video will be edited, and then shared--in whole or in part--across all of Reconciling Ministries Network's social media accounts.

1. Name your video as such: First and last name, city and state, and local church (i.e., "Brett Roes, Rapid City SD, Canyon Lake UMC")
2. Open your web browser (safari, chrome, etc.)
3. Visit this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/2LXYaTqkMFev3GKl6DoL>
4. Click "Choose From Computer"
5. Find the video you want to upload, and click "open."
6. Insert your first name, last name, and email as the form prompts.
7. Click "Upload."
8. Please wait to exit out until the screen displays: "Thanks! You're all done." At this point, you know your video has been successfully uploaded.

***Your privacy is important to us. In light of this, the only people who will have access to the unedited version of your videos will be RMN staff and our volunteer video editors.

If you have any difficulties, or further questions regarding how to upload your videos, please contact Brett Roes at brett@rmnetwork.org.

We want to thank you for your willingness and courage to share your story in this video project. Now more than ever, your story needs to be heard, and video is such a powerful way to tell it. From all of us in the Reconciling movement: Thank you.