

Sample Welcoming Statements

Please note that these statements are written by specific groups. They are to be used as an example for how you might craft your own. If you are going to use one of these samples, or something close thereto, for your own statement - please be in touch with the RC Process Organizers, who can connect you with the Reconciling Ministry to make sure that is okay with them.

Reconciling Campus Ministries

Arise Campus Ministry Fairfax, VA

As an ecumenical and federated community of faith, Arise Campus Ministry affirms our belief in Jesus Christ and thus welcomes all, shares God's universal love, and compassionately lives out our faith on campus and in the community. We welcome, affirm, and celebrate all people regardless of race, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, faith history, life experience, or any other labels others try to use to marginalize people. We, the board of Arise Campus Ministry, staff, and student leaders renew our commitment that Arise is and will be a Jesus-loving organization, living as Christ lived by welcoming all people into community, relationship, and discipleship. This includes access to the same care and spiritual guidance in the journey toward faith formation, baptism, leadership, and marriage.

Frontera Wesley Tucson, AZ

Frontera Wesley welcomes and celebrates people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and ethnicities. We stand in solidarity with all marginalized communities as we pursue equality together.

Reconciling Churches

Bering Church Houston, TX

We proclaim that all people are created in the image of God and affirm that each person, regardless of age, economic status, faith history, ethnicity, gender, mental or physical ability, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identification, is a beloved child of God and worthy of God's love and grace. We support the full participation of all persons in every phase of church life. Through education and informal discussion, we will strive to better understand those who are different from ourselves to bring about a more accepting society. We recognize ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation within The Texas Annual Conference and choose to officially associate ourselves with the Reconciling Ministries Network within the United Methodist Church. We see this network as a sign of hope and through this association offer our

witness to other congregations within our denomination to foster the spirit of reconciliation and movement toward inclusiveness.

Urban Abbey UMC & Campus Ministry Omaha, NE

We confirm our baptismal commitment to resist evil and injustice in every form they present themselves.

We reject the Traditionalist Plan. Our ministry will not be hindered, we will continue to welcome and affirm all individuals and families in our community, including people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

As a Reconciling Congregation, we will use our holy space for same gender marriages. We will affirm and support clergy who choose to officiate these ceremonies. They are an expression of Pastoral Care in our congregation.

We have no tolerance for trials. We will support our pastoral leaders, we will not comply with requests for information, answer questions or participate in the process leading toward trials. We will discourage members of our community from complying with the prosecution of their pastor.

We will not comply with forced leave of absence, suspension without pay or other punitive actions directed toward our pastors for offering pastoral care to our entire congregation.

We will stand in solidarity in the event of a trial or "just resolution" related to the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church. We believe in the power of the connectional church, we honor the investment of our foundation in that connection and will work to express justice more fully.

We commit to our District inclusive ministry network and resolve to grow inclusive healthy churches. We commit to UMC Next and all others working for justice for the transformation of the church.

Reconciling Communities

Greater Tri-Cities RMN Kingsport, Bristol, and Johnson City, TN

We are the Greater Tri-Cities Reconciling Ministries Network, a community of individuals proclaiming and celebrating the diversity of God's creation.

- Because people of all gender identities and sexual orientations are wonderfully made in the image of God, we welcome and affirm them.
- Because people of all ethnic, cultural, and racial identities are wonderfully made in the image of God, we welcome and affirm them.
- Because people of all levels of physical and mental abilities are wonderfully made in the image of God, we welcome and affirm them.

- Because people of all levels of education, financial means, and housing status are wonderfully made in the image of God, we welcome and affirm them.

We are delighted to affirm the sacred worth of all God's children in our midst and welcome you to join us as we seek to practice radical hospitality by:

- Elevating and listening to the voices of those who have been marginalized or suppressed within the Church and society
- Increasing our learning and understanding of our siblings who have disparate experiences from ours
- Advocating for the elimination of discriminatory language and policies in the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church
- Supporting full inclusion of all our siblings in church life, including ordination and marriage

**Social Justice Ministry Team of University United Methodist Church
Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA**

The Social Justice Ministry Team of University United Methodist Church on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge celebrates God's unconditional and infinite love for all people. We affirm that God created all of humankind in God's image; therefore all of creation is intrinsically good. We aspire to model the love, compassion, justice, and mercy of Jesus Christ throughout the United Methodist connection and the world. To this end, we warmly welcome into and celebrate within our community all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons – people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Be it known, too, that we wholeheartedly support and affirm the full inclusion of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons at the marriage altars and in all facets of lay and ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.