



## SANCTUARY FOR ALL

*Reconciling Sunday 2006*

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### INTRODUCTION

The *Watermarked* campaign at the 2004 General Conference was successful in claiming our place within the United Methodist Church. Building on the promises of our baptisms and the open communion table of our tradition, we helped people to understand that we are permanently and powerfully part of the family. We emphasized our confidence as members of the UMC.

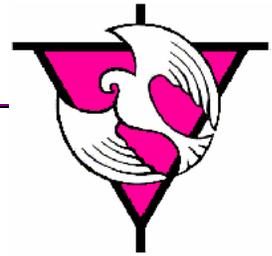
As the leaders of Lake Junaluska offered hospitality to *Hearts on Fire*, they used our frame to say, “Yes, they are welcome here. They are United Methodists.” In response to the Judicial Council decision, the Council of Bishops has unanimously affirmed that we are welcome as members in this Body of Christ.

As we create Sanctuary for GLBT people within the United Methodist Church, some members of the body will be challenged to grow in their welcome and in their understanding of the gospel.

***Sanctuary will not be limited to a resting place, but a deepening place and a growing place.*** It is our vision that as GLBT people find safe places, a trust will develop so they can tell their stories and offer their gifts in ministry. It is our hope that these stories and gifts will cause congregations to open their eyes to a wider vision... a vision that will call for action in creating ever widening sanctuary.

From Shaping Sanctuary—

*“The welcoming movement offers a place of hospitality for those in the church open to God’s whisper of a new thing. It witnesses to the lives of those seeking to take seriously the incarnation, God’s good creation, and sexuality and sexual orientation as part of that good creation. In so doing, it stands in the tradition of Jesus, who overturned religious and social traditions that diminished people’s status as children of God. It stands with Jesus in refusing to accommodate that which excludes whole groups of people. It stands with Jesus, who saw himself as an outcast in his own land, and with a God who grants protection to the outcast. And it affirms and witnesses to the belief that God’s grace is available to all.”* Kelly Turney



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

From the places of isolation, desert and storm, despair and judgment,

***Come find sanctuary.***

From the dispersed, urban and rural, inner city and suburb,

***Come find sanctuary.***

From the trials, appeals, general conferences and judicial councils,

***Come find sanctuary.***

In the sanctuary, remember the promises of baptism,

***Watermarked, permanently and powerfully part of the family.***

In the sanctuary, remember the blessings of the spirit,

***Hearts on Fire, born from above following the Spirit's lead.***

In the sanctuary, born of water and the spirit, remember the commission,

***Go to the ends of the earth. Spread like wildfire.***

We your faithful, Watermarked with Hearts on Fire proclaim sanctuary for all:

***We are United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Sanctuary! Sanctuary for All!***

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION/SILENCE/WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***Forgiving, baptizing, and igniting God we confess longing for safety from our fears—real and imagined—when you ask for our trust. We confess retreating into the familiar—people and places—when you dare us to explore. We confess quiet harmony, in action and inaction—when you require us to speak truth. Forgive us, O God, when we don't trust or explore or speak the love you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray.***

Silence

Leader: Holy One, Holy Three, God of Grace: prevenient, justifying and sanctifying. This God of Jesus claims you as beloved and pleasing. You are forgiven!

## **AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH**

1. Read responsively all or part of your congregation's reconciling/welcoming statement;
2. Use the UMH #886 Social Affirmation inserting "sexual orientation" between sex and nation;
3. UMH # 887 Romans;
4. UMH # 883 United Church of Canada
5. ***In Jesus, we find sanctuary. In Jesus, we learn love. In Jesus, we reach out. In Jesus, we offer sanctuary for all. Amen.***



## **A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS—TWO IDEAS**

1. Children's Time: ALL (have globe as visual)  
How big is ALL? (house, church, sports stadium, globe, galaxy)  
Who is included in ALL? (men, women, children, four legged, two winged)  
Does ALL always mean all? Is God's love that big? Big enough for all?
2. Children's Time: SANCTUARY/SAFE  
Use sports/games: Safe on base, Hide N Seek: Ollie Ollie . . .  
Where do you go when afraid? Home, church, school, grandma  
"Include God and that is your sanctuary!" Today we say Sanctuary for All.

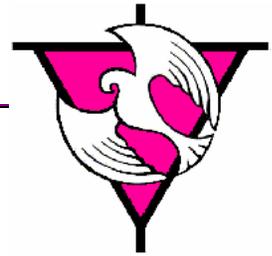
## **BENEDICTION**

We your faithful, Watermarked with Hearts on Fire proclaim sanctuary for all:  
***We are United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***  
***Sanctuary! Sanctuary for All!***  
Go then to the ends of the earth.  
Share your faith.  
Invite, welcome, evangelize.

## **SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS:**

- Acts: 2: 1b** They were all together in one place.  
**Acts: 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."  
**Acts: 2:39** For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.  
**Acts 13: 3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.  
**Psalms 134, 150**  
**Mark 4:35-41** Jesus Stills a Storm

In our sanctuary, have we turned to Christ? Is Christ awake in our community? Are we awake to the commission?



## **MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:**

### **The Faith We Sing**

- 2008 Let All Things Now Living (forward we travel, light into light)
- 2048 God Weeps (love withheld, angry fists, hungry mouths, stones to melt)
- 2236 Gather Us In (in this space our fears and our dreamings)
- 2237 As A Fire is Meant for Burning (the church is meant for mission)
- 2243 We All Are One in Mission ( a single great commission)

### **United Methodist Hymnal**

- 97 For the Fruits of this Creation
- 384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- 454 Open My Eyes (truth)
- 473 Lead Me Lord (dwell in safety)
- 539 Spirit of the Living God (descend upon thy Church...)
- 544 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song (healing of division)
- 560 Help Us Accept Each Other
- 593 Here I Am Lord (commission, calling)
- 617 I Come with Joy (communion hymn)
- 733 Marching to Zion

## **"In The Sanctuary"**

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### Verse 1

We lift our hands in the sanctuary  
We lift our hands to give You the glory  
We lift our hands to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days

### Verse 2

We clap our hands in the sanctuary  
We clap our hands to give You the glory  
We clap our hands to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days

### Verse 3

We sing our song in the sanctuary  
We sing our song to give You the glory  
We sing our song to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days

### Verse 4

Hallelujah in the sanctuary  
Hallelujah to give You the glory  
Hallelujah to give You the praise  
And we will praise You for the rest of our days  
Yes we will praise You for the rest of our days