



Top 10 Reasons to Affiliate with Reconciling Ministries Network

10. to extend God's fully inclusive love and unconditional welcome - inviting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) neighbors into safe sanctuaries in which they can worship, serve and find community

All are God's children and ours is Christ's church. Christ intentionally welcomed all and, as followers of Christ, so should we. Our Book of Discipline proclaims "all persons are of sacred worth" and that "We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

9. so our current neighbors, new residents, and out of town guests can find us

RMN connects people and churches. Being listed in the RMN registry of inclusive churches is important. It allows prospective visitors to find RCs by state and is widely used throughout the connection. Because of the harm the institutional church has done to LGBT persons, visiting a church is a risk that requires great courage. No matter how welcoming a church may be on the inside, LGBT friends will never experience that welcome if it's not first expressed through an intentional, outward invitation. We place our welcome mats on the outside of the building, not the inside.

8. 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.

7. to be a relevant, vibrant and effective family of active faith

guided not by standards of corporate success, but by the Wesleyan expectation of being made perfect in love.

6. to improve momentum in the local and national 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. Taking this step of affiliation often inspires neighboring congregations and communities to engage in their own conversations resulting in more and more welcoming spaces for LGBT United Methodists.

5. to take up the Ministry of Reconciliation

The ministry of Reconciliation is fulfilled when congregations move beyond "welcoming" to "advocating," beyond "accepting" to "transforming," and beyond "standing with" to "standing as."

4. 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 and calling to spread social holiness throughout the land, not as enforcers of a holiness code, but as grateful and generous agents of God's inclusive love and transforming grace.

3. to live out our global mission statement to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In our affiliation with RMN we bear witness to the most identifiable characteristic of Jesus' disciples – love, and we seek, as a matter of first priority, the kin-dom of God.

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

We fulfill the baptismal covenant by publicly rejecting the unjust policies in the Book of Discipline. In a world of round-the-clock news and social media broadcasting stories of our oppressive policies, disappointing Council of Bishops decisions, and heartbreaking church trials, it is critical that we speak out against the discriminatory laws of our denomination that are incompatible with God's love for all.

1. to live as disciples of Christ who calls us to be light in the darkness and neighbor to all, most especially to those unjustly pushed to the margins.

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