



# RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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## Three Steps to Affiliate with Reconciling Ministries Network:

### **1. Our basic requirement is a public statement of inclusion that particularly mentions “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.”**

*This statement is all that is necessary to become an official Reconciling Congregation/Sunday School Class/Campus Ministry/Community.* Because the Book of Discipline specifically singles out LGBT persons for harm, it is crucial that your statement explicitly welcomes LGBT persons for it to be a Reconciling Statement. Of course, this is an opportunity to think of all who might feel marginalized by the church or those who are not always welcome in churches. We encourage you to write a statement that includes a broad diversity of God’s children to demonstrate our belief that all persons are made in the image of God. If possible, please send a picture of your community when you send in your statement.

Your reconciling statement should name who you are as a community – are you a social justice congregation? A church that focuses on hospitality? A church that is proud of your United Methodist heritage that seeks to live into Wesley’s theology of grace? Sample reconciling statements can be obtained from your Regional Organizer (listed below).

### **2. We also request that each congregation keep the reconciling statement in front of people.**

Most print it in the Sunday bulletin and on the main page of their website as part of their welcome – or on a bulletin board that everyone sees when they walk in. Think of places where first-time visitors would encounter your statement: newsletters, outdoor signs, letterhead, etc...

We also encourage you to find opportunities in your community to share about your inclusive church – pride festivals, local UMC gatherings, etc... You are sharing a very important word of welcome and we hope that you will find unique places to advertise that welcome. Many Reconciling communities hold a Reconciling United Methodist (RUM) drive, inviting everyone in the congregation to sign up as individuals – with a goal of 50% of community members signing up as RUMs. RUM cards and other materials are available for download on the RMN website or by calling the office.

### **3. We ask each Reconciling Church or Community to donate annually.**

Just as we give to our United Methodist Church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, we invite you to do the same with Reconciling Ministries Network. It is from the generosity of those who believe in inclusion for LGBT persons in our church that we are able to do trainings, travel to Annual Conferences and witness at large UMC gatherings. As a guideline we ask for \$250 annually, but know that some communities can give more and some give less. Different communities raise this money in various ways – some have a special collection, some have a fundraiser, some have a line item in their budget, and some have an individual who gives to RMN on behalf of the congregation.

If you have questions about how to work through a Reconciling Process with your church or community, please be in touch with your Regional Organizer, who can connect you with a trained process coach:

- Rev. Izzy Alvaran, Western Jurisdiction, [izzy@rmnetwork.org](mailto:izzy@rmnetwork.org)
- Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, North Central Jurisdiction, [robyn@rmnetwork.org](mailto:robyn@rmnetwork.org)
- Rev. Laura Rossbert, Southeastern Jurisdiction, [rossbert@rmnetwork.org](mailto:rossbert@rmnetwork.org)
- Helen Ryde, Northeastern Jurisdiction, [Helen@rmnetwork.org](mailto:Helen@rmnetwork.org)
- Laura Young, South Central Jurisdiction, [laura@rmnetwork.org](mailto:laura@rmnetwork.org)