Sample Reconciling Statements

The Reconciling Ministries Network mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ’s inclusive love. Reconciling communities live into the fullness of God’s love by being explicit about their welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people through a Reconciling statement. This public statement of inclusion must particularly mention “people of all sexual orientations and gender identities” or “LGBT persons”. Because of the explicit polity statements against homosexual persons by the United Methodist Church, reconciling communities must be specific in their welcome. Communities often include many other marginalized groups in their welcoming statement as they commit to ministry with all God’s children.

Sample church, Sunday school class, annual conference group and campus ministry Reconciling statements:

Churches:

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world. We celebrate our human family’s diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education.

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God’s love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.

We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

**Broad Street United Methodist Church (Columbus, Ohio)** [http://www.broadstreetumc.net/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx](http://www.broadstreetumc.net/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx)
Broad Street UMC is a diverse community welcoming persons of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, family configurations, economic abilities, and mental and physical capacities. People with and without homes are welcomes, as are guests from our of town and off the street

**First United Methodist Church (Vermillion, South Dakota)** [http://www.vermillionumc.com/](http://www.vermillionumc.com/)
Vermillion First United Methodist Church celebrates that all persons are created in God’s image and are of sacred worth. We publically affirm a commitment to spiritual diversity and individual integrity. Our faith compels us to be in intentional ministry to, with and for, all people, including those who have not always been accepted because of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual/affectional identity, age, physical abilities/qualities, social/economic status, family make-up, or religious background. We are a community seeking to embrace you and celebrate in God’s love with you.

St. John’s United Methodist Church (Lubbock, Texas)
We affirm that through God’s redeeming love for all, we are one in Christ. We respect the inherent and valuable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.

As we journey towards reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. We welcome all person to full participation in the life and ministries of St. John’s United Methodist Church.

At the same time, we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

As a Reconciling congregation, we believe that we are being reconciling to God and to one another.

All this is from God, who reconciled us ....through Christ, and who gives us the ministry of reconciliation. ~ II Corinthians 5:18

Willston Federated Church (Willston, Vermont) http://www.steeple.org/
This congregation is both United Methodists and United Church of Christ

The Willston Federated Church embraces Jesus’ message that God love and accepts every person. Jesus calls us to the ministry of reconciliation and grace. Therefore, we invite and welcome all person of every age, gender identity, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital or socioeconomic status, nationality, physical or mental ability into full participation in the life of this faith community. We are committed to the reconciliation of all persons as children of God and declare ourselves to be an Open ad Affirming, Reconciling congregation.

Sunday School Classes:

Classes: Faith & Issues, Living the Question and Spiritual Journey at Asbury UMC (Delaware, Ohio)
Asbury’s adult Sunday School classes are called to share God’s love in ministry with and to ALL people. We constantly seek to show that God’s love knows no boundaries such as race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic condition, education background, physical and mental condition.

Our classes pledge to be friendly places where anyone would feel welcome. We celebrate the uniqueness of individuals and believe this diversity enriches our journey together in faith toward greater understanding, mutual respect, servanthood, and Christian love.

We seek God’s wisdom as we strive to eliminate attitudes and actions that may exclude people from our life together. As we grow in our understanding of what intentional and risk taking hospitality means, we will reconsider this statement at least yearly.

With God’s help we promise to live out this statement to the best of our ability.

**Grace Sunday School Class at Washington Street UMC (Columbia, South Carolina)**
All persons are individuals of sacred worth. We affirm Jesus’ example of love without reservation and we covenant to deal compassionately and justly with one another. Therefore, this inclusive and nurturing community of faith, the Grace Sunday School Class, openly welcomes all person of any age, gender, race, ethnic origin, economic reality, family status, sexual orientation, diverse ability or social standing as full participants in the life and work of this reconciling community. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect.

**The Nomads’ Adult Sunday School class at St. Mark’s UMC (Bloomington, Indiana)**
The Nomads class at St. mark’s United Methodists Church is an open and welcoming group that seeks to lead lives as Jesus lead his, knowing the need for social awareness, peace with justice, and environmental stewardship. As such we welcome and accept all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Annual Conference groups:**

**Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (B-WARM)**
http://www.bwarm.org/
Mission Statement
B-WARM seeks to change church policies and practices to ensure the full participation of all, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, in the ministry and life of the United Methodist Church, particularly in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Vision Statement
As United Methodists, we seek to model a more faithful Conference as we:
• Encourage dialogue and education about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues,
• Increase the number of Reconciling congregations
• Stand in solidarity with all who have been excluded or marginalized by the church, and
• Work with the Reconciling Ministries Network and the United Methodist Church to foster disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

RUMOLA – Reconciling United Methodists Of the Lincoln Area (Nebraska)
As the Reconciling United Methodists of the Lincoln area and beyond (RUMOLA), we seek to be a community of Christ to all who desire a fully inclusive church.

We hope to be a
• Community of Reconciling United Methodists and friend, Lincoln, NE and beyond
• Safe sanctuary for all God’s children
• Support group for each other
• Network of friends through group e-mail and information
• Gathering of folks for workshops, sharing meals, discussion and worship
• Group that advocates for and with our gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual sister and brothers in Christ
• Strong voice to encourage others to claim their voices
• Community that is welcoming and affirming to person of all sexual orientations
• Community that reaches out to others and encourages others

Campus Ministries:

University Christian Ministry (UCM) at Northwestern University (Chicago, Illinois)
http://www.northwestern.edu/ucm/index.html

Everyone's Welcome at UCM!

UCM is a ministry that seeks to show the love of Christ to all God's children, regardless of gender, race, class or sexual orientation. We support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in their struggles and offer a safe space to reconcile their faith and identity.

The Wesley Foundation at the University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)
http://wesleyfoundationumd.squarespace.com/

The United Methodist Campus Ministry (aka "The Wesley Foundation") at the University of Maryland, College Park, affirms Christ's call to engage in ministries that bring reconciliation and wholeness to all persons.
Our hearts, minds, and doors are always open to individuals of all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and theological identities. We strive to be a community of spiritual growth that reflects compassion towards all God's children, engaging in prophetic and pastoral outreach to Church and society.