

First Steps



A Resource of Minnesota Reconciling Congregations

What is a Reconciling Community?

A reconciling community is a church, university, campus ministry, or a small group within such larger organizations that is committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church, both in policy and in practice.

To become reconciling, a group must reach the point where they can declare they “welcome and affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities” with at least 75% support.

Forming a Committee

The important work of working for the full inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community should not be done alone. We recommend forming a core team of 5-10 people committed to working together to advocate for, design, and shepherd the journey your church is about to undertake. If possible, known member of the LGBTQIA+ community should be part of this core team.

Some suggestions for forming your group can be found in the Building an Inclusive Church workbook.



Living into our shared baptismal covenant, Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists to resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we seek justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Building an Inclusive Church

Help your faith community specifically welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

BIC WORKBOOK

The Building an Inclusive Church workbook provides the frame for your church to craft the artwork that is your reconciling statement.

Congregational Assessment

A roadmap is only helpful, if you know where you are. The first step of any reconciling journey should be being sure where you stand, both personally and as a church. A good tool for this is the Congregational Assessment from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Both digital and physical copies of this can be found at:

ReconcilingWorks.org/Congregational-Assessment

L	G	B	T	Q	I	A	+
Lesbian: A woman sexually attracted to women	Gay: A man sexually attracted to men	Bisexual: Someone sexually attracted to people of two or more genders.	Transgender: Someone whose gender identity is different from their assigned	Queer or Questioning: Someone whose identity does not conform to dominant norms.	Intersex: Someone born with physical anatomy that does not fit the male/female gender binary.	Asexual: Someone who does not experience sexual attraction.	Plus: No acronym can fully encompass the vast expanses of sexuality and gender identity.

Language is constantly evolving and the same label can mean very different things for different people. The definitions above are provided as guides, not as rigid boxes.

Additional Resources

