

It's a new day for the United Methodist Church!

After 52 years, the statement “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” was removed from church law! After 40 years, the ban on gay clergy was removed! The United Methodist General Conference (meeting of the world-wide Methodist Church) has cleared the way for LGBTQIA+ persons to be fully included and affirmed by the United Methodist Church. This is a day that many (LGBTQIA+ and allies, lay and clergy) have worked and prayed for many years. Hopes would rise and then be dashed at a General Conference. Many tears were shed. People remained in the closet; clergy risked being brought to church trial and losing their credentials. This General Conference changed the laws, but it did not erase the damage that has been done. The church needs to repent. Those of us in the Reconciling movement must continue our efforts.

Church law and policy has changed but hearts & minds and practice have not necessarily changed. Reconciling congregations and communities can re-affirm their commitments to inclusion. Churches that believe they welcome all, but are not yet Reconciling, can be supported to see why it is important to become Reconciling Congregations. Those that are not yet safe places for LGBTQIA+ persons, and those who care for them, can be invited to hear the stories of LGBTQIA+ persons and encouraged to become safe, welcoming, affirming spaces.

It's time to recommit to building the Reconciling movement - one heart, one pew, one congregation at a time! If you have questions about Reconciling in Minnesota (or beyond), please email minnesotareconciling@gmail.com or visit the Reconciling Ministries Network website at <https://rmnetwork.org/>



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations

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