

Lansing United Methodist Church Affirms “All Are Welcome,” Including LGBTQAI+ Persons

The Lansing United Methodist Church congregation (LUMC) has made it overwhelmingly clear that LGBTQAI+ persons are welcomed, affirmed, and celebrated by the congregation, as the congregation adopted a Welcoming Statement on Sunday, September 22, 2019. This vote, voicing LUMC's opposition to the denomination's official stance toward LGBTQAI+ persons, followed a year-long process of study and conversation led by LUMC's Reconciling Ministries Group. Ninety-eight percent of the LUMC congregation in attendance voted to ratify the statement.

The Lansing congregation joins over 1,000 other United Methodist groups, including classes, congregations, campus ministries, annual conferences, and the entire Western Jurisdiction of the denomination in making a public statement that they welcome, affirm, and celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities at all levels of their community, including participation, membership, and leadership positions. On November 18, 2019, the worldwide Reconciling Ministries Network (RMNetwork.org) recognized and welcomed Lansing United Methodist Church as a new Reconciling Congregation. LUMC is the third United Methodist congregation in Tompkins County to become part of the Reconciling Ministries Network, joining Forest Home Chapel and St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

LUMC's congregation recognizes that its vote does not change the denomination's position, as stated in the Book of Discipline. However, as individuals and as a congregation, LUMC can and does proclaim that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions will find welcome, affirmation, and invitation to full participation in all the ministries of the congregation.

LUMC's Welcome Statement

Welcome!

You are a beloved child of God; there is a place for you at Lansing United Methodist Church. Every person is of sacred worth, created in God's image, and loved equally by God.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace the Methodist spirit and action expressed in “open hearts, open minds, open doors.” As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate the rich diversity with which God has blessed all people, including all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. We believe that exclusion is incompatible with Jesus's teachings. We join the Reconciling Ministries Network to work toward the full inclusion of all persons into the church community.

We don't have to think alike, but we have faith that together we can move forward in God's love.

We welcome, affirm, and encourage full participation of people of every age, race, national origin, immigration status, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status or family structure, education or economic background and physical or mental ability. Come exactly as you are. Your presence enriches us.

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