

The Good Samaritan Church seeks to include ALL God's children in God's Church:
Join us on our journey of affirmation and inclusion: All aboard!

Our journey has been one of congregation-wide discussion, discernment and ultimately consensus taking place in large groups, small groups, workshops, forums and ultimately an all-church meeting. Our Church Council voted February 28, 2011 voted to approve the motion noted below and called an All Church meeting to administer a vote on Sunday April 10, 2011. By 11:00 am our results were clear: our church believes in this journey and intentionally seeks to become a church that includes ALL of God's children into the full life of our church.

Motion Ratified by The Good Samaritan United Methodist Church April 10, 2011:

We move to:

- Adopt the welcoming statement of inclusiveness (see below)
- Adopt and implement the plan (see below) to live into this statement in accordance with the Discipline and Doctrine of the United Methodist Church and the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Make this welcoming statement public.
- Dedicate one service a year to celebrate God's fully inclusive welcome
- Use the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) logo in our bulletins, newsletters, websites, other publications using GSUMC name, thereby joining the RMN.

Welcoming statement

The Good Samaritan United Methodist Church believes all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We seek to include all God's children in God's church and vow to respect and intentionally embrace our common belief in the Word and Light embodied by Christ Jesus. We celebrate our diversity and welcome all into the full life of the church regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capacity, education, religious background, family configuration, and marital or economic status.

Plan to Implement Welcoming Statement

- At least once a year, we will dedicate a service to celebrate God's fully inclusive welcome
- Designate a group or team with responsibility to ensure our church is "living into" the inclusive vision of the welcoming statement. Team members should be familiar with the Reconciling Ministries Network and its mission
- This same group is responsible for coordinating one or more educational programs per year so the congregation will continue to grow in its understanding of true inclusion. These can be forums, workshops, film, book talks, etc.
- New members will be advised of the history and meaning of our welcoming statement and how we live out this vision.

We currently meet all requirements of the Reconciling Ministries Network and seek membership:

The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) 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.

<http://www.rmnetwork.org/>