

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is a movement “committed to intersectional justice across and beyond the United Methodist connection, working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the Church.”

As St. Paul’s United Methodist Church celebrates 10 years of being a part of RMN, we also look to the years ahead and consider what we can do to continue to grow as a congregation that embraces our welcome statement and **celebrates the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God.**

10 YEARS
Reconciling
Congregation

10 THINGS
to learn + do

Look inside for 10
ideas to help us
learn, support,
show up, + give.



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(1) BUILD AWARENESS around LGBTQ+ terminology. Remember that words used to describe people and our experiences can and do shift. As Q Christian Fellowship notes, “hold these terms lightly and use them humbly, ready at any moment to adjust in order to better love and serve the LGBTQ+ community.”

(2) EXPLORE what the Bible has to say about inclusion and justice when it comes to sexuality and gender identity. Here are a few books recommended by RMN:

- Transforming the Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians, by Austen Hartke
- UnClobber: Rethinking our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality, by Colby Martin
- Holy Love, A Biblical Theology for Human Sexuality, by Steve Harper
- Our Lives Matter by Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey
- Beyond a Binary God: A Theology for Trans* Allies, by Tara K. Soughers
- Outside the Lines, by Rev. Mihee Kim Kurt

(3) DONATE financial resources, which go a long way when they’re invested in community partners and nonprofits. Consider supporting one or more of the organizations listed in this document that support the LGBTQ+ community here in Kansas City, across the state, throughout the Church, and beyond.

(4) ATTEND events and activities that celebrate and advance LGBTQ+ inclusion and justice, such as:

- Reformation Project
- Johnson County Pride
- MFA KC or PFLAG
- LGBTQ+ arts, like the Heartland Men’s Chorus

(5) CONNECT WITH OUR YOUTH at St. Paul’s. We’re gifted with amazing and aware advocates who understand the importance of this work in their lives and for their peers. Listen to our youth, and learn from them! Their leadership and their voices matter. You can also ask them about the organizations they support, including The Trevor Project - a non-profit organization working to end suicide among LGBTQ+ young people. Check out the Trevor Project’s Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Young People

(6) ADVOCATE by learning how you can support Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) - a statewide, multi-faith issue-advocacy organization that “puts faith into action” by educating, engaging and advocating on behalf of people of faith and the public regarding critical social, economic, and climate justice issues. One of KIFA’s current priorities is advocating for the rights of transgender people across our state. To find out more about the ways St. Paul’s is supporting KIFA, reach out to Cathy Matlack (cjmatlack@gmail.com) or Jack Gregory (jmdgregory@gmail.com).

(7) TEACH OUR CHILDREN that diversity in all forms is something to be celebrated. Seek out children’s books such as:

- A Church for All, by Gayle E. Pitman
- Intersectionallies: We Make Room for All, by Latoya Council, Carolyn Choi, and Chelsea Johnson
- Love Makes a Family, by Sophie Beer
- Red: A Crayon’s Story, by Michael Hall
- The Family Book, by Todd Parr

(8) KEEP UP with what’s happening in the UMC surrounding LGBTQ+ inclusion and justice. Sign-up for the Mainstream UMC newsletter to receive the latest news from this United Methodist advocacy group. Learn more about RMN and follow them on Facebook and Instagram. Consider if you or someone else at St. Paul’s might be able to serve on a United Methodist General Conference committee to further increase the number of inclusive voices in leadership in our conference.

(9) LOOK AHEAD to the United Methodist General Conference in spring of 2024, and stay informed about the legislation that will come before delegates at umnews.org. You can write the members of the Great Plains delegation at GCDellegates@greatplainsumc.org to express your support for legislation that will remove the harmful language from our Book of Discipline and craft an inclusive future for the UMC. As we get closer to General Conference, be on the lookout for more ways to support our affirming delegates as they prepare to do this difficult work.

(10) STAY OPEN AND ENGAGED as we grow together, loving one another, and working towards inclusion and justice for all people. Give grace to yourselves and others on this journey.

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Scan the code to find links to the resources mentioned here.

