



HAMLIN CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST

Adopted unanimously 03.19.2019

Hamline Church Council Statement regarding the recent actions of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis

The Hamline Church Council hereby denounces the decision of the 2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church to deny full inclusion to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA). The adoption of the so-called "Traditional Plan" - which calls not only for the exclusion of our LGBTQIA siblings in Christ through ordination and marriage, but also for the defrocking of church leaders who actively include our LGBTQIA siblings - is hurtful, shameful, and a contradiction of our values as a Christian congregation.

Hamline Church has been a reconciling congregation for over 20 years. In this role, our church has outwardly professed and practiced our belief that our LGBTQIA siblings are equal members of our church community in every way, while planning praying, and waiting for the day when the United Methodist church would fully open its doors to all people. With the passing of the Traditional Plan, those doors have all but closed.

As the governing body of Hamline Church, we will:

- Ensure that Hamline Church remains a home for all of God's people in all ways, with no exceptions
- Proclaim and celebrate the sacred worth of all of God's children
- Be leaders in the movement to devise a path forward that is grounded in love and dedicated to full inclusion
- Seek to undo the harm caused by exclusion and discrimination through systemic forms of oppression against all marginalized people both inside the church and in greater society
- Recommit to working for the full inclusion of all people

While the path forward is not yet clear, we reaffirm our commitment to a future in which all individuals, regardless of orientation or identity, are fully included in every aspect of the life of the church.

Gil Young
Mary Kay Bailey
Todd Jones
Isaac Schultz
Steve Bloom
Anne Thompson
Victoria Brenner

Mark McDermott
Lisa Chen
Jason Freund
Carol Anderson
Jeff Voshell
Barbara Leary
Pastor Mariah Tollgaard



**GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE
SO DO WE**

A letter from Minnesota United Methodists

We stand in opposition to the actions taken at the recent global gathering of The United Methodist Church to tighten restrictions on the ordination of LGBTQIA+ clergy and to maintain prohibitions on clergy who perform same-sex marriage ceremonies.

We grieve this decision and the pain it causes our siblings throughout the world.
Too often, our silence has done harm.

We say to our LGBTQIA+ siblings: you are beloved children of God, and you are beloved by us. We celebrate the many gifts and graces you bring to the church. We humbly seek forgiveness.

We commit ourselves to creating the inclusive church God intends us to be. We seek to undo the harm caused by exclusion and discrimination through systemic forms of oppression against all marginalized people both inside the church and in our greater society. We recommit to working for the full inclusion of all people. As we seek to faithfully live into these commitments, we want to hear from you about your vision for a fully inclusive church.

Please comment at www.minnesotamethodists.org

The local United Methodist faith communities and members listed below proclaim God's love and grace are for all. We welcome everyone and extend a special welcome to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, allies, and families.

Action Steps: We need your help!

1. Sign! Individuals and congregations can sign on to this open letter at www.minnesotamethodists.org
2. Share! Help us get the word out – share the invitation with your United Methodist family and friends to ask them to join you in signing on as a supporter. Share the link via social media, email, text or even over a cup of coffee!
3. Donate! Your financial support will help us publish this letter in newspapers, online etc. You can donate online or by in the offering plate by designating an offering to Minnesota Methodists. (Checks can be made payable to Hamline Church write Minnesota Methodists in the memo.)
4. Pray!

Please contact Pastor Mariah for more information.