

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does it mean for Hilliard UMC to become a Reconciling Church? (i.e. what will change?)

Our vote is whether our congregation should officially become a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. Joining this network of more than 1,000 United Methodist churches across the globe indicates our readiness to be a public witness to our community for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church. This includes but is not limited to our readiness to vote in favor of LGBTQ inclusive issues within the United Methodist denomination; intentionally engage in dialogue, build relationships, and advocate for changes to Church policies related to ordination, marriage equality, and the availability of funds that help make LGBTQ justice a reality; and allow LGBTQ people to become congregation members and staff. Donations to the RMN are recommended, but not required when identifying as a Reconciling Ministry Church.

2. Why should we move ahead now when our denomination is still sorting out these details?

By becoming a Reconciling Church now, HUMC will more fully live out our slogan “God Loves You No Matter” and will signal to Columbus’ and the nation’s LGBTQ communities that they are welcomed at HUMC. HUMC’s identity as a Reconciling Ministry is not tied to General Conference or its vote, but rather is based on the beliefs of the HUMC congregation and who we want to be.

3. What exactly is the Reconciling Ministries Network, what are their values, and what are we communicating by becoming a member?

RMN's foundational statement: *We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.* Additional information about RMN’s mission and values can be found on their website: <https://rmnetwork.org/>.

4. Does HUMC have a new belief statement of affirmation at this time?

No. After our HUMC congregation votes on our readiness to officially become a Reconciling Church, the discernment group will write a new mission statement, which will be voted on by HUMC’s leadership as outlined by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force’s Welcoming Toolkit. If you would like to be part of the writing process, please reach out to Jane Dewire and Michael Haney at humcdiscernment@gmail.com and we will include you in the mission statement meeting & discussions.

