

Reconciling United Methodists are agents of change!

About Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)

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.

Since 1984, Reconciling Ministries Network has offered Gospel hospitality and affirmed their baptismal promises, which include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons as fully part of our church family. A widely quoted phrase in the UMC Book of Discipline calls the lives of LGBT persons "incompatible with Christian teaching." Reconciling congregations, communities, campus ministries and individuals join together to challenge any practice of our church which discriminates against LGBT persons and their families.

Steps to Affiliate with the Reconciling Ministries Network:

1. Write and adopt an explicit welcoming statement. ✓(NBUMC Completed)
2. Make it public. ✓(NBUMC Completed)
3. Send a letter of affiliation to RMN.
4. Consider making an annual contribution to the work of the movement.

For more information on the reconciling process, visit:

www.RMNetwork.org

Reconciling Ministries Network

www.BWARM.org

Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists



Reconciling Education at NBUMC

The youth of North Bethesda UMC have been hard at work planning a series of educational events to assist the congregation to better understand the issues and outcomes of becoming a recognized reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. The youth presented a proposal to the church council on April 12th that was approved, which outlined the program they had in mind.

The basic points were:

- The program would take place over a six week period of time.
- The program would consist of different types of events, films and discussions, panel discussions, a bible study, and single presenters.
- The goal is to have open and frank conversations about the facts surrounding becoming a recognized reconciling congregation and to understand the fears and questions that congregation members have about the process.
- At the end of the six weeks, the congregation would participate in a consensus event to decide together whether or not to become a recognized reconciling congregation.
- **The youth have asked that congregation members wanting to participate in the consensus event on June 28th attend at least one of the educational events.** The youth will ask attendees to sign in at each event. Congregation members are welcome to as few or as many of the events as they wish.



Schedule of Events

We may add to this list as we are able to secure speakers, so stay tuned to announcements!

Tuesday, May 17th 7pm

(Church Council Meeting) A kick-off discussion will be held, led by BWARM's Jen Ihlo. She will present a slide presentation and talk with time for questions and discussion to follow.

Sunday, May 22nd 6pm

We will screen the documentary *For the Bible Tells Me So* (w/ dinner).

Friday, June 10th 7pm

We will screen the documentary *Incompatible with Christian Teaching*. Anne Brown, the director and producer, will be with us to lead a discussion afterward. The film discusses the United Methodist view on homosexuality as stated in the Book of Discipline.

June 5th and June 12th

Two panel discussions to be held following worship services.

(Topic and presenters are TBD)

Bible Study to be held either Wednesday or Thursday evenings and led by members of BWARM.

June 28th 7pm

Consensus Meeting in Johnson Hall

Reconciling Congregations offer welcome to LGBT people in particular, because this is one group, the only group that is expressly made to feel unwelcome with the UMC. When a UM congregation wants lay LGBT people to feel welcome, they need to say it out loud.