



# Christ United Methodist Church

*Creating committed Christ-followers for the transformation of the world.*

## CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Commitment to Marriage Equality

As a church in the Methodist tradition since 1857, Christ United Methodist Church's ministries are grounded in Jesus' call to love both God and neighbor. We acknowledge that we have often failed to extend the radical hospitality that God asks of us, even as we continually strive to do so.

Christ United Methodist Church is a reconciling congregation and is a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. Upon voting as a congregation to join this network of churches, we publicly welcomed LGBTQIA+ persons and their families into full participation in the life and ministries of the congregation. We continue to do so today.

We recognize that when two people come together to form a primary committed relationship, they often ask the church to bless their wedding. With due consideration, the church responds by celebrating, in the presence of their families and friends, the work of God's Spirit in their lives.

We lament that in our time, the United Methodist Church is struggling with inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons in full inclusion as clergy and in full inclusion as children of God with rights to love and marry whomever they desire.

We renounce the forces of evil that would exclude any of God's people from full inclusion to the call of ministry and from full inclusion in the sanctified celebration of marriage.

Today we affirm that God's grace is open to all, and we witness to that grace through our commitment to justice and equality in our congregation, the state of Minnesota, the United Methodist Church, and the world. With the approval of our lead pastor, we will honor and celebrate the wedding of any couple, licensed in Minnesota, who seek to commit their lives to one another in marriage.

Approved by the Leadership Board of Christ United Methodist Church

*Approved by the Leadership Board on July 11, 2019*