



Reaffirmation of Our Purpose and Statement of Reconciliation

Passed May 26, 2019

Whereas: Collegiate United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation (Collegiate/Wesley) on October 8, 2000, adopted our Statement of Reconciliation, which states that “our inclusive community welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, economic condition or anything else which threatens to divide God’s family. In our quest to follow the example of Christ, we will employ no circles of exclusion and we commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and reconciliation, providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception,” and

Whereas: Collegiate/Wesley, on October 19th, 2015, as a part of our continuing effort to live into our Statement of Reconciliation, we resolved and affirmed that the congregation of Collegiate/Wesley would support and approve the use of our facilities for marriage ceremonies of all couples licensed to marry in the State of Iowa and approved by our officiating pastor. And that any of our clergy who chose to minister fully to all persons by celebrating such marriages could do so knowing that we pledged to them our full support.

Whereas: The United Methodist Church during a Special Called Session of the General Conference on February 26, 2019, passed by a vote of 438 to 384 the “Traditional Plan” which is in conflict with our Reconciling Statement. Most of the provisions of the Traditional Plan were affirmed as constitutional in Judicial Council rulings issued on April 26, 2019.

Therefore: Collegiate/Wesley, in response to the Special Called Session of General Conference and successive Judicial Council ruling, reaffirms our commitment to our Statement of Reconciliation and to be a fully inclusive church, and

Collegiate/Wesley will not conform with, comply with, or support provisions of the Book of Discipline which discriminate against LGBTQIA+ persons, including matters of marriage (161.C), the incompatibility clause (161.G), ordination and appointments (304.3), homosexual unions (341.6), Annual Conference funding ban (613.19), General Council on Finance and Administration funding ban (806.9), chargeable offenses pertaining to being "a self-avowed practicing homosexual" or to officiating at weddings for couples regardless of the sex of the partners (2702.1b,d and 2711.3), and

Collegiate/Wesley reaffirms our commitment to hold weddings in our church regardless of the gender, sex or sexual orientation of the partners. We reaffirm our commitment to support clergy who perform weddings in our church and pledge to them our full support; and

Collegiate/Wesley commits to advocate for changes and legislation at the 2019 Iowa Annual Conference that will limit the harm and impact of the Traditional Plan and to work to elect delegates to the 2020 General Conference who will work for full inclusion of all persons.

At Collegiate/Wesley our purpose is to build an inclusive community where all are invited to experience God’s unconditional love, grow in faith and serve others.