



BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON AREA RECONCILING METHODISTS

www.BWARM.org



Dear friend,

I wanted to let you know of an amazing opportunity we have to move the United Methodist Church one step closer to our goal of ensuring that persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations are celebrated in our churches. On Saturday, February 28th, 2009 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm BWARM will host a representative from the Reconciling Ministries Network to train us on how to share our stories with those who will be voting on important matters at Annual Conference.

This year, all annual conference of the UMC will vote on a constitutional amendment to ensure that our “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” slogan applies to ALL persons who enter the doors of our churches. This amendment reflects our belief that, “all means all.” We believe this amendment will more fully ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are not denied membership in our churches.

I know that February 28th seems far away, but PLEASE mark your calendars now so we can ensure we all come together for this important event! Please contact me at (202) 680-2064 or LauraRossbert@gmail.com if you will be able to attend this important conference, or have any questions. We will find a location convenient to everyone in our annual conference, which will be announced soon at www.BWARM.org.

BWARM and RMN are asking each church to sign a declaration in support of this amendment. You will find a copy of this declaration below, which I ask you to share with your church, even if it is not reconciling – with all our work we are simply working for dialogue. If your church signs this declaration, please send it to: Reconciling Ministries Network, 3801 N Keeler Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641.

Blessings,

Laura Rossbert
Advocacy Chair
BWARM

All Means All Declaration

We, the _____ United Methodist Church, together with other congregations of the _____ Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, declare our support for the Constitutional Amendment to Paragraph Four, Article IV of the United Methodist Constitution that includes all people in the life, leadership and rites of the church.

Believing **ALL MEANS ALL**, our congregation welcomes persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, economic conditions, marital status, mental or physical abilities to attend, join, and participate fully in the life of our congregation. Such belief advances our United Methodist mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by applying the three simple rules: Do no harm, Do Good, Stay in love with God.

Affirmed: _____ (Date)

By: : _____ (For example: ad council, voice vote by congregation, outreach committee)

Contact: _____ (Print name of contact person)

_____ (Phone, etc...)