



Called to Love at Church of the Master, UMC

“Called to Love” lives into our shared baptismal covenant to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. 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. “Called to Love” works within Church of the Master and our city of Westerville to facilitate education and communication around the complex topics of gender identity and sexual orientation. We offer an environment of support and community for LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) persons and allies, transforming the church into a fuller expression of Christ’s inclusive love.

April 15, 2024

General Conference 2024:

What potential is there for an outcome of greater LGBTQ+ inclusion in the UMC?

There are three different pieces of legislation being put forth at GC2024 which would all lead to outcomes of greater inclusion: Regionalization, Revised Social Principles, and Removal of Anti-LGBTQ+ language/policies. You can read more here <https://rmnetwork.org/gc2024/>

How can we support this effort?

Called to Love has sent a letter in support of these three pieces of legislation to our collective West Ohio Conference clergy and lay delegation to General Conference, which included signatures of support from all present at our meeting. If you wish to send your own letter, you may do so to GCDelegates2024@wocumc.org

Called to Love Future Planning:

Involvement with Westerville Pride, 6/22 and Columbus Pride, 6/14-15

Individual member will support Westerville and Columbus Pride by volunteering with LoveBoldy, as we did in 2023. Ainsley and Emily Patterson are working to create “Called to Love” buttons that we can wear at these events. You can confirm your interest to volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/Pride2024Volunteers> There is also hope that members would be able to march in the Stonewall Pride Parade on 6/15, in partnership with other RMN churches/ministries in Central Ohio. Details to follow as they become available.

What other goals should we make heading into year four of our Ministry?

- Connect with Otterbein “Freezone,” student-led LGBTQ+ organization to offer support
- Promote an in-depth study of racism; suggested “The Color of Compromise,” by Jemar Tisby
- offering gender-neutral bathrooms in our church – this may be as simple as a signage issue
- working to remain aware/engaged with state legislation and how we can best support
- Pursue a connection with “A Place to Be” at Church of the Messiah to see how we might combine efforts

If you have other ideas, please share them with our planning team. **We are actively seeking to welcome more people to the planning team, that we might better share the work load and be more effective!** Look for info on our Planning meeting to happen in late July/early August.

chmaster.org/called-to-love

Called to Love Planning Team:

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