



## **A WAY FORWARD COVENANT**

*Jeremiah 31: 31, 33a, 34b* – “The days are coming,” declares the Lord “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. “I will put my law in their minds and write it in their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,”

*Philippians 2:1-5* – Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had,

### **This covenant is created and affirmed:**

In response to the decision made by the general conference of the United Methodist Church in 2019 regarding participation of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the life of the church,  
and in an effort to live out our church mission statement,  
and to fully live out our commitment to being a Reconciling Congregation.

### **In the spirit of providing a nurturing community for all, We, the laity and clergy of the First United Methodist Church of Media covenant to:**

- Be disciples who affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God’s love and grace. We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We celebrate our human family’s diversity of race, ethnicity, age, national origin, faith history, economic status, ability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, and education.
- Be a congregation who serves persons in the LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersex, asexual and more) community

- Be in ministry to those in this community through the following:
  - Clergy are free to perform weddings for same-gender couples.
  - We are free to host weddings for same-gender couples.
  - We affirm the ordination, licensing and appointment of LGBTQIA+ candidates on the basis of their gifts for ministry and are open to receiving appointments of persons in the LGBTQIA+ gay and lesbian clergy.
  - Churches are free to use financial resources for ministry with all persons, including LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Be committed to inviting all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.
- Be in connection with Reconciling Ministries Network and other organizations and individuals who are resources that support the message in this covenant.

**Agreed to by the members of:**

First United Methodist Church of Media

**Date:** 11/1/2022