

## SUMC Welcoming Statement

At the February 19, 2019 meeting, the Church Council reviewed congregational input on the options presented to revise the SUMC Welcoming Statement. The purpose of expanding our current statement was to explicitly identify groups that may question if they are truly welcome. Just saying “All” is open to assumptions and we want to assure that anyone looking for a church home will clearly know they are invited to join us.

A welcoming statement that explicitly addresses LGBTQ individuals is the primary requirement to become part of the Reconciling Ministry Network (RMN), an organization dedicated to the full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals within the United Methodist Church.



**More important than what our Welcoming Statement says is how we, as a congregation, live it.** It should be a call to action that makes us think about our behavior and actions and identify ways we, as individuals and a congregation, demonstrate inclusiveness and embrace differences in achieving our mission and vision in **welcoming, connecting, igniting and loving** others.

The congregation input was strongly in favor of the shorter alternative presented below. The Church Council voted unanimously to approve this Welcoming Statement.

*The Solon United Methodist Church welcomes and accepts ALL people, regardless of where they are on their life's journey. No matter your age, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, health condition, family circumstances, political preferences, racial identity, life experiences, socio-economic status, or the strength of your faith—we welcome you. All are welcome to join us in our journey toward greater Christian love, understanding, and mutual respect.*

*We are committed to fostering a loving, welcoming community centered in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in faithfulness to the Gospel and to the best of our ability, we strive to demonstrate our commitment to journey with all who seek to experience God's abiding love.*