



If we were to vote to become a reconciling congregation today,
what would be your greatest JOY?

- Feeling more accepted and loved in a community that has been an essential part of my emotional and spiritual health for my whole life
- To be able to vote No
- Everyone coming together in love.
- That our doors, minds and hearts are truly open!
- Being able to tell people that I belong to a UMC that openly and publicly accepts and fully includes every person out there. No one is told they are welcome BUT they can't lead.
- A step towards full inclusion for all
- Feeling fully loved and accepted for who I am.
- Knowing all people have a safe space to love and be loved by God and community.
- Knowing we except everyone no matter what with no "Buts"
- This would be (such a tiny, tiny, tiny baby-sized) step in the direction that God calls her church to follow. I feel like she'd finally be saying YES! You're getting it! BOUT TIME Y'ALL.
- It is so important that each person knows that he/she is a child of God. Everyone is part of that family.
- I would be so happy to truly welcome everyone.
- That we could become one church again and include everyone in God's church.
- That the church that I love will openly confirm that in the United Methodist Church all people are loved and welcome.
- We would be reinforcing our "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors" philosophy and showing our commitment to tolerance and inclusiveness.
- Everybody is included! Everybody knows everybody is included!
- Knowing that everyone can feel welcomed and loved just as I have felt in my church
- That everyone is welcome
- That all would at last feel welcome
- That the decision has finally been made
- That everyone would be fully known and celebrated in our worship space.
- Being part of a community where all are welcomed in and can participate fully as they are in the Body of Christ.
- That we can truly live by Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors. Period!
- To feel a sense of belonging and comfort knowing we will ALL accept others.
- I would be happy that our church is welcoming and loving to all in-spite of differences



If we were to vote to become a reconciling congregation today,
what would be your greatest **FEAR?**

- Hearing opinions of intolerance and hate toward my personal identity, something out of my control, from people I have adored and considered family for my whole life is very hurtful, however, I think the process of becoming more reconciling brings out these opinions /outlooks.
- God would lose out. Jesus' death on the cross would be for nothing the way our church would be going.
- Members leaving.
- That some of my church family will leave our "family"!
- Loss of membership. I don't want anyone to leave because they don't feel welcome.
- Losing members
- Losing a member who can't get past the "BUT"
- Having to say Good-bye
- People of the congregation we might lose.
- That my LGBTQ+ loved ones will hear only the voices of negativity and the cycle of oppression will dominate the reconciling process.
- As we explore this important issue it would be concerning if it became our primary focus while neglecting other issues or lessons. It should be one of the things we investigate not the only thing we explore as a church.
- I hate to lose dear members who can't accept this path for whatever reason.
- That some members would leave and couldn't see that we are all God's children.
- That those opposed will encourage division and split the church.
- That it would cause some people to leave our church.
- No Fear!
- That the only church family I have ever known will be torn apart because we can't love each other as God wants.
- None
- That we would lose our building
- That some may leave the church because of it. I hope they would reconsider it though.
- That we make the mistake of the religions' assertion that God made a mistake when he brought certain people into being. We miss out on the most basic premise of the Gospel. Everyone - Always!
- That we will be able to use the name "reconciling" but not be actively inclusive.
- Fear of losing the members of the LGBTQ community that currently attend and losing the potential for our church to grow.
- To not be able to identify with my church family anymore.
- I am fearful of losing members of our church family.
- Our church would close and no more Immanuel.