

Broadway UMC Proposed Commitment to Marriage Equality Policy

When Rev Mark and I came to Broadway UMC, we were told you were a "Reconciling Church they, just haven't done the formal work yet." (Reconciling Churches are committed to full inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ kin.) We heard stories of inclusion and stories of frustration around the General Conferences' actions. In anticipation of a future decision, the leadership has begun the work of clarifying who we are at BUMC with our Inclusivity Statement in 2019. This Marriage Addendum is a potential next step for us.

We want you all to read it, pray about it, and consider it. We want you all to ask a lot of questions and to come to our conversations on Wednesday evenings. We want you to send emails to the pastors and read books and pray some more. And we want to know what you are thinking and feeling.

The Ad Council will potentially be voting on this addendum at the end of May.

We recognize that often when two people form a loving committed relationship, they ask the church to bless their marriage. After due consideration, the church responds by celebrating the work of God's Spirit in their lives, in the presence of their family and friends.

In our continuing effort to live out our Inclusivity Statement, especially our belief that "the markers of a Godly marriage are consent and mutual flourishing between two adults" adopted in 2019, we now resolve and affirm: That the congregation of Broadway United Methodist Church will approve and support the use of our church for marriage ceremonies approved by our officiating pastor and are licensed to be married in the State of Iowa.

We recognize that this may lead to disciplinary actions against our clergy, therefore we resolve to continue to support our clergy as Executive Officers and Preachers/Teachers of our congregation despite any consequences they are given. While we are not entirely of one mind, we are committed to continued prayerful and inclusive consideration of what it means to be an inclusive, bridge-building church and the implications for our mission: Seeking, Growing, Serving with Unconditional Love and Acceptance.