

MEDIA RELEASE

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Foundry reaffirms commitment to LGBTQ equality and inclusion in the life of the church

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Foundry UMC is a strong advocate for full inclusion of LGBTQ persons in all levels of the church. During worship on October 22, the Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, senior pastor, read the following statement that re-affirms Foundry Church's commitment to advocacy for the full inclusion of LGBTQ persons and their families in the life and ministry of The United Methodist Church. Members of the congregation and other supporters of LGBTQ equality and inclusion were invited to add their names and more than 500 people have done so:

"In light of both the Special General Conference in 2019 and this week's Judicial Council meeting which will consider matters related to the ordination, appointment, and service of LGBTQ persons in The United Methodist Church: We reassert our commitment as a congregation to advocate for the full inclusion and equity of all people. We name as incompatible with Christian teaching the discriminatory policies which criminalize ministry with LGBTQ persons and their families, particularly through the rite of Holy Marriage, and the blanket rejection of LGBTQ persons who are called and gifted for ordained ministry. We call upon the leadership of The United Methodist Church at all levels to remove all discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline and unequivocally affirm ministry to and with LGBTQ persons through marriage and ordination."

As The United Methodist Church's Commission on a Way Forward continues, anticipation grows for the special General Conference in 2019, and the UMC's Judicial Council meets this week, T.C. Morrow, Foundry member and certified candidate for ordained ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, said:

"At about same the time as my own confirmation in a small town United Methodist Church in sixth grade, I began to understand that I am a lesbian. As I pray for grace every day to continue responding as faithfully as possible to God's call on my life, I know that no number of delays in my candidacy process for ordination in the UMC halts Christ's call to follow him into a world that desperately needs to know God's transformative power and love. I continue to answer now. I know God sees me. I ask the Church to see me and many others, not an 'issue' but integral members of the body of Christ also called into ordained ministry."

Foundry UMC continues its faithful work to Love God. Love each other. Change the World.

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