



Justice-seeking.  
People of faith.



# Plumbline: LGBTQI Inclusion in The United Methodist Church

Methodist Federation for Social Action

[www.mfsaweb.org](http://www.mfsaweb.org)

Facebook: MFSAVoices or Twitter: @MFSAVoices

“I am setting a plumbline in the midst of my people...” - Amos 7:8

## Resources:

[The Simple Plan](#)

[The Connectional Table's Bribe to Straight Progressive Clergy](#)

[Why Excluding People Makes Bad Church Law](#)

**Caucus Groups Advocating LGBTQI Inclusion in The United Methodist Church:**

[Affirmation](#)

[Love Prevails](#)

[Methodist Federation for Social Action](#)

[Methodists in New Directions](#)

[Reconciling Ministries Network](#)

[Western Methodist Justice Movement](#)

## Values at Stake

Since 1972, The United Methodist Church has codified injustice against lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons. Further destructive legislation has crept into our Book of Discipline to perpetuate harm to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) persons. Not only do these legislative statements do harm to individual disciples of Jesus Christ, they harm local communities, congregations, annual conferences, and indeed, the Church Universal and the Body of Christ.

The Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) stands firm in its commitment to seeing the **removal** of the following:  
\*language that declares LGBTQI

persons to be “**incompatible with Christian teaching**”  
\*bans on United Methodist clergy from **acting out of pastoral care to officiate at wedding ceremonies of persons of the same sex**, as well as barring congregations from hosting such weddings  
\***barriers for ordination of LGBTQI persons** by eliminating the “self-avowed, practicing homosexual” clause  
\*the **funding ban** for the advocacy of LGBTQI inclusion

Likewise, we support those pieces of legislation which bring hope and flourishing to those ministries which advocate for stronger support of ministries to persons of all sexual orientations

and gender identities within The United Methodist Church.

Conversations around LGBTQI inclusion are rightly understood through the Wesleyan lenses of Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Because of these lenses, we know each of us comes to our understanding of sexuality and gender in unique and varied ways. While cautious about the ways the implementation of Rule 44 might harm LGBTQI persons, we place hope in the Holy Spirit for **building relationships, fruitful conversation, and common understandings** to make The United Methodist Church a fully-inclusive space for all who are created in the image of God.

## Key Legislation: SUPPORT

CB 60783, 60785, 60786\* : Marriage

CB 60819\*, 60821, 60823, 60824, 60826, 60829, 60830, 60831, 60833, 60883, 60944, 61041\* : Human Sexuality

CB 60884 : Sexual Harassment

FA 60771 : Remove Funding Ban

FO 60779, 60780\* : Qualifications for Ordination

GA 60741, 60742\*, 60881, 60943 : Inclusiveness

JA 60762\*, 60765, 60904, 60889\* : Chargeable Offenses

JA 60170 : Complaint Process Conflict

JA 60673 : Resolutions, Agreements, Decisions

MHS 60787\*, 60789, 60792 : Marriage

MHS 61033, 61034, 61037, 61038, 61040, 61043 : Amend Footnote and Candidacy Requirement

\* = Stronger pieces of legislation, preferable to keeping with “Values at Stake”

## **Key Legislation: DO NOT SUPPORT**

**CA 60576** : GBCS Staff and “Traditional” Marriage

**CB 60706** : Internet Pornography

**CB 60784** : Marriage

**CB 60793** : Gender

**CB 60818, 60822, 60832, 60835, 60836** : Human Sexuality

**CB 60801** : Prohibit Homosexual Marriage

**CB 60845** : Holiness and the Human Body

**DI 60782** : Global Study on Marriage

**DI 60797** : Resources

**FA 60995** : Definition of Spousal Benefits

**FO 60925** : Called to Inclusiveness

**FO 61039** : Qualifications for Ordination

**FO 60781** : A Third Way – Qualifications for Ordination

**FO 60799, 60907, 61036, 61042** : Qualifications for Ordination

**GA 60740** : Non-UM Coalitions

**JA 60391, 60806, 60923** : Resolution Process

**JA 60070, 60766** : Chargeable Offenses

**JA 60920, 61029, 60921, 61030** : Episcopal Complaint Process

**JA 60595** : Counsel for the Church

**JA 60807, 60596, 60809, 60810** : Consequences

**JA 60597** : Appeals

**MHS 60802** : Automatic Penalties

**MHS 60639, 60788, 60790, 60906** : Marriage