

RICHFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

***Commitment to  
Marriage Equality***

**As a church in the Methodist tradition** since 1854, Richfield United Methodist Church's ministries are grounded in Jesus' call to love both God and neighbor. We acknowledge that we have often failed to extend the radical hospitality that God asks of us, even as we continually strive to do so.

In 2007—seeking to open our hearts, minds, and doors—we publicly welcomed lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families into full participation in the life and ministries of the congregation, and we continue to do so today.

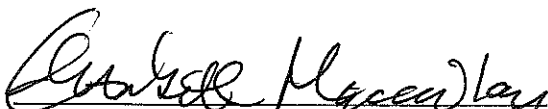
**We recognize that when two people come together** to form a primary committed relationship, they often ask the church to bless their wedding. With due consideration, the church responds by celebrating, in the presence of their families and friends, the work of God's Spirit in their lives.

**We lament that in our time**, so many courts, legislatures, and religious institutions still deny same-gender and transgender couples equal access to marriage and all the blessings, rights, and responsibilities thereof.

**We rejoice that at this point in history**, the arc of justice now bends toward equal recognition of marriage for all couples.


**Today we affirm that God's grace is open to all**, and we witness to that grace through our commitment to justice and equality in our congregation, the state of Minnesota, the United Methodist Church, and the world. We will honor and celebrate the wedding of any couple, licensed in Minnesota, who seek to commit their lives to one another in marriage.

*Approved by the Administrative Board of Richfield United Methodist Church  
September 17, 2013*

  
Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, Pastor

  
Sue Restemayer, Chair, Administrative Board

  
Nick Dewey, Chair, Board of Trustees

  
David Couillard, Lay Leader

*Affirmed by the signatures of intentional disciples of the Richfield UMC community.*