

**Change the Current Polity of the UMC so That LGBTQ Persons are Fully Included**

<b>Scripture</b>	Faithful Christians can and do interpret texts differently.
	An understanding of historical and social context is necessary.
	Prohibitions against homosexuality in the Bible do not envision loving, monogamous relationships
	The Bible does not speak about homosexual orientation - only practice
	The Bible has been used to justify polygamy, slavery, the subordination of women and violence
	God's command to love God and neighbor supersede culturally bound references.
<b>Tradition</b>	The Methodist Church once supported slavery and barred women for ordination
	We can change our tradition to liberate people and be more inclusive
	Traditions should exist to serve the building up of Christ's body and the spread of the Gospel
<b>Reason</b>	Scientific studies repeatedly show that homosexuality is not a choice, but part of one's being
	Why would a loving God create a type of person who is naturally created to be more sinful than others?
	There are plenty of examples of same-gender couples living in consensual, happy, monogamous relationships
<b>Experience</b>	Many LGBTQ persons have loving and dedicated relationship with God and demonstrate Christ's love
	Others can also see the Holy Spirit working in their lives
	They have experienced acceptance of Jesus Christ
	Who are we to reject those whom God has accepted?



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<b>Scripture</b>	Genesis 2:23-24 establishes marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman; this includes procreation
	Numerous scripture passages in the OT and NT prohibit the practice of homosexuality
	"Love your neighbor" does not mean that we should accept everything they do
<b>Tradition</b>	Attitude toward homosexuals should be reformed to be more loving; hatred and harm have no place
	However, centuries of Christian tradition and wisdom confirm that homosexuality is outside of God's will
	Changing this teaching means departing from orthodox ("right opinion") Christianity and adapting to culture
<b>Reason</b>	Science can help the church understand and minister to those who experience same-gender attraction
	But reason is more than just science
	Reason shows that it's possible to express love and acceptance of LGBTQ persons without affirming homosexual practices
<b>Experience</b>	John Wesley wasn't referring to any experience, but to particular Christian experience as it relates to salvation
	Some experiences (i.e. the testimony of a gay or lesbian Christian) are "self-authenticating," but not authentic to Scripture
	Just because a person experiences homosexuality does not justify homosexual behavior