

Yes, I want to join MIND!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Congregation: _____

E-mail: _____

(please PRINT clearly!)

Phone numbers: _____

Membership dues are \$15, less if you need, more if you can.

Dues enclosed \$ _____

Send me a t-shirt, too. T-shirts are \$15 (they are not included with your \$15 dues).

(indicate size: S M L XL 2XL)

Total enclosed \$ _____ .

Please make checks payable to **MIND**, and mail to:

Methodists in New Directions
c/o Asbury United Methodist Church
167 Scarsdale Road
Tuckahoe, NY 10707



www.mindny.org

METHODISTS IN NEW DIRECTIONS



a Reconciling ministry in the New York Annual Conference

JESUS never said he came for almost everybody. Yet the United Methodist Church still excludes God's lesbian and gay children. *We MIND...* and we're doing something about it.

www.mindny.org

*“There is neither
Jew nor Greek,
slave nor free,
male nor female;
for you are all one
in Christ Jesus.”*

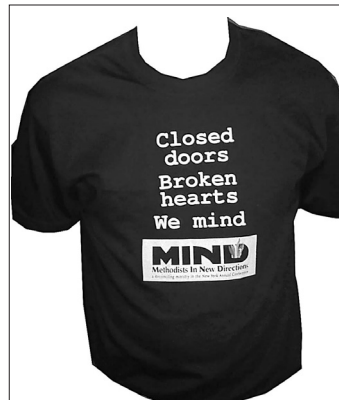
—Galatians 3:28

Who we are

MIND is a grassroots organization of United Methodists working to end our denomination's doctrinal prejudice and institutional discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and committed to living more fully into God's radical Welcome right now and right here. We are a regional group, organizing on the conference level within the New York Annual Conference (NYAC). We are part of a larger reconciling movement and are affiliated with the national Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN).* MIND was founded in 2006, but is part of

a long tradition of reconciling activism within NYAC and stands on the shoulders of many who came before us.

We work year-round with local congregations to help them develop and expand LGBT-inclusive ministries. We sponsor events and speakers, as well as organizing training for our members and supporters. We also work within the institutional structures of the UMC in a variety of ways, including a



yearly witness and creative presence at the four-day annual conference session of NYAC.

We believe in living the loving, radical, inclusive Gospel. We believe that Christians are called to follow the example of Christ in proclaiming the all-encompassing, extravagant love of God

and that the church has a special obligation to welcome the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed. We believe that

the church has no business mimicking the prevailing prejudices of the society around it.

We believe that the transformation of the church will—must—come from the bottom up and that living our faith means each of us taking the next steps in the reconciling ministry in our own congregations—whatever those steps are, however big or small.

**The term 'reconciling' for this mission was suggested in 1982 because of the need for reconciliation between the United Methodist Church and its LGBT members.*

We MIND...

...*that the* UMC Book of Discipline says the church "does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching" (§1 161G).

...*that the* Discipline states "self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church" (§1 304.3).

...*that the* Discipline further says "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches" (§1 341.6).

...*that in* 2005 the Judicial Council, the church's highest judicial body, ruled that ministers could bar gay and lesbian people from membership based solely on their sexual orientation.

...*that each* year countless LGBT people are exiled to a spiritual wilderness as they turn away from the church because of its bigotry; each year promising young seminarians choose to be ordained in another denomination because they cannot abide the UMC's discrimination; and each year the United Methodist Church loses thousands of members as it fails to embody the loving, radical, inclusive Gospel that could inspire people to join.

THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO

1. Join MIND and get others to join, too.

Fill out the membership form on the back of this brochure or join online at www.mindny.org. Talk to others in your congregation. Contact **MIND** if you'd like more brochures or if you'd like someone from **MIND** to come speak at your church.

2. Support reconciling ministry in your congregation.

Join the reconciling committee in your church...or start one, if there isn't one! Contact **MIND** if you are not sure how to get started or what the next steps are.

3. Buy the t-shirt and wear it to a church event.

Tell someone why you are wearing it. The t-shirt can be a great way to start a conversation. Shirts are available on the **MIND** website at www.mindny.org.

Visit the **MIND** website at www.mindny.org for resources, news and much more. Sign up for our newsletter, too!