



**WEST LOS ANGELES  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Regarding Matters Concerning  
Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation**

The West Los Angeles United Methodist Church had studied, engaged in deep conversation, reflected intentionally about the character and ministry of Jesus Christ, and voted as a congregation to affirm that we are a “reconciling” United Methodist Church within our denomination.

In our United Methodist Church denomination, this affirmation of our local church means that we welcome persons who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered, queer (LGBTQ+) as persons of sacred worth.

We welcome and encourage any to participate in every aspect of our church’s ministry as we affirm these person’s gifts for ministry and their worthiness for membership and receiving the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism without judgement.

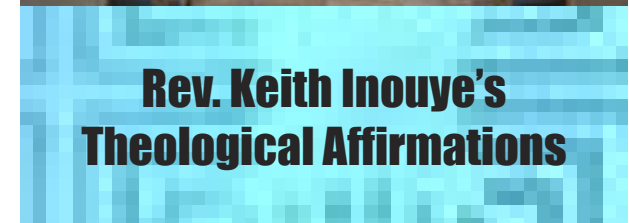
The West Los Angeles United Methodist Church’s decision and conviction on this important matter are congruent with my own personal beliefs and convictions as a United Methodist pastor.

Our church is a part of a growing number and connection of local United Methodist churches, conferences, clergy and laity in our nation and world that hold the same convictions.

For more information go to:  
[www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)



01-02-2023



# Greetings!

Dear friends,

Every Christian pastor has their faith that is deeply personal to them. God speaks to us in varying ways through our experience in life that leads us to hold the theological affirmations and convictions that we hold.

Certainly we all share much in common regarding our beliefs and convictions as Christian ministers and yet naturally we will have variation and differences in our beliefs as well which is a witness to the diversity of our religious experience. This is not only true of those called to pastoral ministry as a profession but also true of every person.

In our United Methodist denomination we affirm the common beliefs that we hold that binds us together but we also celebrate the wider spectrum of belief that is represented among us all.

In helping you to get to know me (the Senior Pastor of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church), I share with you my personal theological affirmations that guides me in ministry and leadership as a pastor.

I encourage and welcome dialogue with others on matters of faith and life in an atmosphere of non-judgement.

Blessings to you,

Rev. Keith Inouye



## Jesus Christ

Grounded in the teaching and example of Jesus Christ whom I believe embodied the very character and nature of God; loving, compassionate, forgiving, reconciling, healing, creative, justice seeking, and life redeeming. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ I draw purpose and meaning for life and ministry.

## Cooperative Respect for Diversity of Faith

I believe the gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to embrace and respect other world religions. Though we seek to share the knowledge and truth of God in Jesus Christ with others, I remain open to seeing and hearing how truth reveals itself through other faith traditions. Through dialogue and collaboration we become aware of how our differences and common ground may help to expand our own theological affirmations.

## Service to Others, Community Involvement, & Social Justice

Christ's two greatest commandments (to love God and love one another) are the primary source of inspiration for our lives and ministry. As a United Methodist pastor, I believe in a social gospel where personal faith in Jesus Christ compels us to be concerned with the well being of others and all of God's creation. Therefore, community involvement, engaging in social action, and advocating social justice are all a reflection of our faith.

## The Celebration of Our Unique Cultural History & Heritage

The remembrance and celebration of the Japanese American cultural heritage and history of the churches I have served is important to me which I believe continues to be a part of the unique experience of being a part of the United Methodist Church. Offering worship services and programming in both the English and Japanese languages reminds us of the rich cultural heritage that makes our ministry unique.

## Inclusiveness

I believe that everyone is a person of sacred worth created in the image of God. Following the example of Christ, we welcome all people as they are into the fellowship of our faith community. For this reason I encourage and welcome the growing diversity of our historical Japanese-American churches that welcomes all.

## Scripture, Tradition, Experience, & Reason

In the tradition of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, I affirm that our understanding of God is informed by the Word of God as contained in the Holy Scriptures, by the traditions of the church that we have carried on through the centuries of Christian thinking, by our personal life experiences, and by our ability to think and reason with our minds; all of which I regard as blessings and gifts from God.