

TOWARD A THEOLOGY  
OF INCLUSION

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN  
MAY 15, 2019

OUR GOAL TONIGHT

The goal of this session is to begin to explore resources for creating, enhancing, and growing a theology of inclusion, with a particular emphasis on the Methodist and Wesleyan thinking.

Purity codes vs. Biblical  
hospitality

*Implications for inclusion*

HOSPITALITY - OLD TESTAMENT

- Israel's exile (Babylon and Egypt)
- People away from home need protection
- Tithe produce (Deut. 14:28-29)

Relationship with God

Hospitality = God

Inhospitable = Sin

HOSPITALITY OFFERED TO...

- |                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| • poor           | • blind  |
| • alien/stranger | • widow  |
| • laborer        | • orphan |
| • deaf           | • women  |

ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD VIDEO

HOSPITALITY DISCUSSION

Using this definition of hospitality,  
share a time when you  
experienced Biblical hospitality.

CHRIST'S MODEL OF HOSPITALITY

- Expands Old Testament hospitality
- Welcomes all
- Connects salvation to *least of these*

JOHN WESLEY

- Never wrote about sexual orientation
- Arminius vs. Calvin
- Open to science

HERITAGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Abolition of slavery
- Creation of the labor movement
- Literacy education for children
- Prison/penal reform
- Women's ordination
- Civil rights
- Nonviolence/ pacifism/peace and justice

WESLEY'S QUADRILATERAL

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

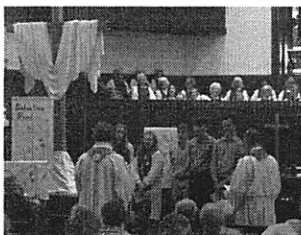
## WESLEY'S NEW CREATION

A dynamic vision of redeemed humanity living

## WESLEY DISCUSSION

How would our Methodist heritage inform the inclusion of persons who identify as LGBTQI+ at Central?

## BAPTISM / MEMBERSHIP VOWS



## RENUNCIATION

*On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:  
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of  
wickedness, reject the evil powers of this  
world, and repent of your sin?*

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Do you accept the freedom and power  
God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and  
oppression in whatever forms they present  
themselves?*

## LOYALTY TO JESUS CHRIST

*Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put  
your whole trust in his grace, and promise to  
serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church  
which Christ has opened to people of all ages,  
nations, and races?*

RICHARD ROHR

"Life is about practicing for heaven..."

Questions or Comments?