

WE BELIEVE in a church that embodies *full inclusiveness*. Jesus reached across lines of gender, class and religion. In the book of Acts, Peter was told not to call unclean what God has declared clean. The Gospel welcomes all people regardless of human distinctions through God's grace. The invitation to Christ's banquet table is for neighbors of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, culture, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental and physical ability, economic condition, marital status and theological perspective.

WE BELIEVE in a church that *celebrates a diversity of gender identity* as equally created in God's image and blessed with gifts and graces for leadership and ministry. While physical abuse, sexual violence and the denial of reproductive healthcare are not gender exclusive, we recognize that women and transgender and gender non-conforming persons are disproportionately the victims of sexual violence, exploitation and regulations that limit their access to reproductive healthcare. A church that cares for all people must be willing to speak out against the violations of human rights, freedom and dignity as well as to advocate for adequate services to care for those who have been victimized by others. Cultural gender role expectations which exist from country to country and culture to culture must not limit freedom, unity and accountability in Christ nor act as a stumbling block to the full participation of any person in every aspect of life. In particular, we recognize the importance of the historic role that Methodist Women and other courageous women throughout the world continue to have in claiming the fullness of their roles in society and God's mission. We prayerfully support all those in and through the life of the Church who advocate for the rights and dignity of all, regardless of gender expression, and who seek justice, service and righteousness for the Church and world.