

**VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES**  
**TOWER GROVE PRIDE 9/24-25/2022**  
**RECONCILING MINISTRIES**

Thank you for volunteering to serve at the Tower Grove Pride Reconciling Ministries Booth! We hope that you find this volunteering to be both fun and fulfilling as we share our ministries with festival attendees.

To that end, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Many folks in the LGBTQ+ community will identify or express their gender in a non-binary fashion. Sharing your pronouns (e.g., he/him, or she/her, or they/theirs) is a way of signaling your awareness of and respect for trans identities, and that you are an ally to the LGBTQ+ community. Practice introducing yourself with pronouns so you are ready to do so when volunteering.
- We may get asked about the “clobber verses,” those verses often used against the LGBTQ+ community. For your reference these verses are usually Genesis 19:1-38, Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and Romans 1:25-27, among a few others. You are not expected to be a Biblical scholar and should probably not attempt to interpret these nor argue with our visitors. Scholars do argue these verses are difficult to interpret, and many question whether they apply to our understanding of same-sex relationships today. In general misinterpretation and careless generalization of any scripture is a problem, but show love and grace if confronted with a question that challenges you.
- There may be people who ask us if the Methodist church is going through a breakup or schism. We cannot deny that some denominations are splitting off as part of the disagreement over full inclusion of LGBTQ+ folks in the church. You can say that Reconciling Ministries does not represent those congregations, but the UMC remains united. We are exploring a way forward, but a full schism is not an accurate description.
- People may want to tell us their stories of spiritual/church trauma. Listen, with love and grace. Connect them to a trained pastoral care person if they are seeking that help. Pray with them if they ask.

Thanks for being the church and bringing the church to Pride!