Part IV

The Reconciling United Methodists Texas Conference is organized under the Texas Business Organizations Code to operate for charitable purposes and not to the financial benefit of any individual. The organization’s goal is to impact and improve relationships between churches and members of society who have historically been excluded and are seeking inclusion in the church.

The organization will assist in fostering productive discussions, training and providing resources and development workshops, seminars and literature. The organization’s non-profit activities include providing educational training and coaching on using effective methodologies in communication. The organization’s goal is to impact and improve the experiences of persons seeking to connect with religious institutions. The organization’s non-profit activities also include providing advocacy services and support for marginalize sub-groups in religious settings.

The organization will also provide resources by offering community workshops, seminars, literature and providing venues for social justice discourse. The organization will also provide information to the general public, churches, small groups and individuals on effective methodologies in community outreach.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the purposes of this non-profit corporation are intended to be limited exclusively to exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The past, present and planned activities the further the exempt purpose of The Reconciling United Methodists Texas Conference are as follows:

1. Past Activities
   1. 2016 to date
      1. January – the Winter Gathering was titled Holding Families Together and included speakers and discussion on “Outing Shame”, Understanding Transgender, 2016 General Conference: Effective Ways to Seek Support from Delegates, Homosexuality: A Scriptural Way Forward for the United Methodist Church book discussion with the author, and updates on Open Hearts groups, a caring ministry for congregations.
      2. Periodic electronic newsletters provided information on events, actions, and opportunities to support full inclusion.
      3. Frequent postings on our Facebook pages, sharing posts on personal Facebook pages, and occasional posts to other Facebook pages inform our readers and others about full inclusion.
      4. May – hosted dinner for 334 registrants at the annual conference of the Texas Conference (UMC) featuring a guest speaker, Communion service, promoted Open Hearts groups, and solicited donations. We also had a booth at the conference which was staffed to discuss full inclusion, promote Open Hearts groups as caring ministries for local congregations, and offered materials and books to those interested. Many provided a visible witness for full inclusion by wearing rainbow stoles during conference.
      5. Scholarships were available for all events for those unable to afford the event fee. Several were award for each event.
   2. 2015
      1. February – the Spring Gathering was titled We Can Make a Difference. Speakers and discussion included Youth: Engaging Young Adults in the Conversation for Full Equality, Truth: What Do You Say When? Empowering People to Speak Up, and Proof: How Reconciling Communities Impact Churches & Members.
      2. Periodic electronic newsletters provided information on events, actions, and opportunities to support full inclusion
      3. Frequent postings on our Facebook pages, sharing posts on personal Facebook pages, and occasional posts to other Facebook pages inform our readers and others about full inclusion.
      4. May – hosted dinner for 575 registrants at the annual conference of the Texas Conference (UMC) featuring a guest speaker with questions and answers and solicited donations. We also shared a booth at the conference which was staffed to discuss full inclusion and offered materials to those interested. Many provided a visible witness for full inclusion by wearing rainbow stoles during conference and by speaking to issues of inclusion during business sessions.
      5. September – the Fall Event was titled I Do, They Did, We Will! Speakers and discussion covered June 26, 2015: What happened? What's next?, What can I do? (Sharing information from the Bishop's meeting with clergy), and Why do we need Open Hearts?
      6. Scholarships were available for all events for those unable to afford the event fee. Several were award for each event.
   3. 2014
      1. Spring educational event was in February at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. The program included advocacy training from Equality Texas and a full-length worship service that included communion and focused on healing.
      2. May – hosted dinner at the annual conference of the Texas Conference (UMC) featuring a guest speaker and solicited donations. We also shared a booth at the conference which was staffed to discuss full inclusion and offered materials to those interested. Many provided a visible witness for full inclusion by wearing rainbow stoles during conference.
      3. Periodic electronic newsletters provided information on events, actions, and opportunities to support full inclusion
      4. Frequent postings on our Facebook pages, sharing posts on personal Facebook pages, and occasional posts to other Facebook pages inform our readers and others about full inclusion.
      5. September – the Fall Fellowship included these topics: Engaging Young Adults, Telling Your Story, Becoming a Reconciling Community, and Every Vote Counts!
2. Present Activities
   1. Fall Event will be on September 24, 2016. It will be hosted by members of the current Board and other volunteers at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. The morning speaker will be Matt Berryman. Mr. Berryman is Executive Director at Reconciling Ministries Network. We will also update guests and promote Open Hearts groups as caring ministries for congregations. During the afternoon, we will offer a free screening of the documentary An Act of Love. Donations to support our programs will be solicited.
3. Planned Activities
   1. 2017
      1. Spring Event prior to Texas Annual Conference in May will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers. Program and location is still to be determined.
      2. Annual dinner at Texas Annual Conference with Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth (current national chair Black Methodists for Church Renewal) speaking. Dinner will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers and held at the hotel hosting Texas Annual Conference.
      3. Fall Event will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers. Program and location is still to be determined.
      4. Reconciling United Methodists Texas Conference will continue to support and promote Open Hearts groups as caring ministries for local congregations.
   2. 2018
      1. Spring Event prior to Texas Annual Conference in May will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers. Program and location is still to be determined.
      2. Annual dinner at Texas Annual Conference with Rev. Vicki Flippin (Pastor of Youth and New Communities at St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church, New York, New York) speaking. Dinner will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers and held at the hotel hosting Texas Annual Conference.
      3. Fall Event will be hosted by members of the Board and volunteers. Program and location is still to be determined.
      4. Reconciling United Methodists Texas Conference will continue to support and promote Open Hearts groups as caring ministries for local congregations.
   3. 2019 and beyond – at this time, we expect that the program will continue to include spring and fall events in addition to dinner or lunch with a speaker at Texas Annual Conference. We will continue to promote and support Open Hearts groups as caring ministries for local congregations.

Planned activities will be sponsored and conducted by RUMTX board members and volunteers. Activities will be conducted at the annual conference of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and others venues that are available and appropriate for our workshops and events. They will be supported by personal contributions from supporting individuals and organizations and the possible sale of merchandise, such as DVDs of events.

List any alternate names under which you operate, including any “aka” (also known as) or “dba” (doing business as) names.

Not Applicable

Part V

7b- The organization makes DVDs of workshops, seminars and speakers, which are made available for sale to the public. Officers, directors and/or trustees are able to purchase these items at the same price as any other consumer.

Part VI

1a-The organization may sponsor individuals attending church conferences.

1b- The organization may make contributions to other social justice organizations in the community.

Part VIII

4a-Fundraising

**Mail Solicitations**- The organization may from time to time send newsletters or other information to persons on the mailing list, included in that correspondence will be requests for financial support. This list is comprised of persons who have supported past efforts of the organization as well as those who have voluntarily elected to be included on the mailing list.

**Email Solicitations**- The organization may from time to time send emails to persons on the mailing list, included in that correspondence will be requests for financial support. This list is comprised of persons who have supported past efforts as well as those who have voluntarily elected to be included on the mailing list.

**Personal Solicitations**- The organization encourages its board members to make personal contacts with individuals who are supportive of our mission and purpose. Often requests will be made for financial support of those personal contacts.

**Vehicle, Boat, Plane, Or Similar Donations**- The organization has not is the past but will consider all viable donations of items which can be liquidated in effort to financially support and further its nonprofit motive, mission and purpose.

**Foundation Grant Solicitations**- To the extent that grants are available, the organization will seek financial support of foundations effort to financially support and further its nonprofit motive, mission and purpose.

**Phone Solicitations**- Rarely but on the occasion phone communications will be made to individuals who have voluntarily elected to be included on phone list to provide responses to inquiries or other information requested. Often requests will be made for financial support of those phone contacts.

**Accept Donations On Your Website**- The organization’s website will contain a module to allow online visitors to make contributions to financially support and further its nonprofit motive, mission and purpose.

**Receive Donations From Another Organization’s Website**- The organization will accept donations from other organization’s websites, primarily church groups, who desire to financially support and further its nonprofit motive, mission and purpose.

**Other**- The organization intends to seek all means and methods of fundraising that are legal and ethical in effort to financially support and further its nonprofit motive, mission and purpose.

4d- The organization will conduct fundraising throughout the State of Texas in all local jurisdictions where there is a supportive presence. Currently, efforts are centered around the Houston Metropolitan Area and conducted by the organization itself.

10- The organization owns and will own the copyrights to all publications and media created or derived from its events.

13a- Grants and contributions may be made to other social justice organizations in the community. These contributions further the organization’s nonprofit purpose by supporting the ongoing work of other organizations with a similar purpose and mission. It often serves as an extension of the social justice and advocacy work the organization seeks to undertake but is undermanned to administer.

13d- List of previous recipients (Organizations) of contributions, gifts, grants or distributions

2016 – Center for Courage and Renewal

2015 – Reconciling Ministries Network and Love Thy Neighbor Coalition

2014 – Reconciling Ministries Network (3 donations)

2013 – Reconciling Ministries Network

13e Describe record keeping for contributions, grants, gifts or distributions made

The record of all disbursements from the funds of the Breaking the Silence bank account is maintained in the Shelby financial accounting system in a special category: Donations to Others. All other deposits and expenditures are maintained in the same financial accounting system. Check requests authorized by a current officer of the organization (approval step) and signed by those authorized with a signature on the bank account. At no time are the requestor, approver, and check signer the same person.

13f- Describe the selection process for organizations that receive funds

The organizations that receive funds are vetted and discussed by the Board during regular business meetings. A vote is taken by the Board during the board to approve the donation and disbursement of the donation.

13g- Describe oversight process of distributions that assure resources are used to further your exempt purpose

Distributions of funds are discussed at regularly scheduled Board meetings. Any distribution of resources in considered as to the appropriateness of the expense to support the programs of the organization. Donations, for example, are to non-profit organizations which have similar purposes and principles to those of this organization.