



## Asking a local church to support LYNC

If you feel your local church supports the values of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, consider asking them to make that support tangible with a financial gift. Many local congregations are looking forward to the time when the UMC changes in policies on inclusion of LGBTQIA people. This is a chance for them to act on the goal.

Three key things to do with your request are:

1. Be direct. Suggest an amount based on what you know about your church and its history of supporting inclusion, diversity, and justice. Aim a little bit high, a requested amount can be lowered, but is rarely increased. Send it to a whole committee, so one person can't become a gatekeeper.
2. Tell them key points about LYNC, A coalition of 15 groups seeking justice and inclusion in the church and the world. Give them links to the LYNC website to help them learn more.
3. Tell them about yourself. Share how you have supported LYNC and its partners with your gifts, time, talent, and witness. Don't assume they know.

Here is a sample email:

Dear First UMC Church Council *[or mission committee, or administrative board]*,

We would like to make a request for \$2000 from the church world mission fund. *[If you know a specific fund or source of funding, name that.]*

The request is to support the work of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition in their work to make The United Methodist Church a more just and inclusive institution.

The Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC) is a consortium of fifteen justice related organizations encompassing LGBTQ inclusion, racial justice, environmental justice and more. Grounded in values of Wesleyan theology: grace, dignity, relationships, justice, and solidarity You can learn more about LYNC and it the coalition member at <https://www.lyncolalition.org/about>.

LYNC is currently seeking funds for their work at General Conference in May 2024 in Charlotte NC. At General Conference they will be working to provide connection for international delegates, provide a witness for justice related legislative items, and support inclusion and organizational changes to the church that reduce colonialism and racism. LYNC has worked for years to build bridges with international delegates to the conference and will do that again this year with special events and extra translation services. Meeting space, communication tools, translation, and events are all part of the budget. You can [read more about LYNC's plans in this article](#).

On the personal side, my wife and I *[include your names]* have worked with and supported the LYNC Coalition for many years as it has represented social justice and LGBTQ inclusion in The UMC. This year I am volunteering at the conference and making my/our own financial gift. *[Tell what you are doing, if you will be in Charlotte, if you are a delegate or reserve delegate and that you have made your own donation as well]* We are committing our time, energy, and money to this endeavor and we invite the church to join us.

In Christ,

Signature