

Elyse Muder's Testimonial

In hearing that first part of the scripture, I think of the first day of high school. Thankfully I wasn't there too long ago so I haven't blocked everything out yet. I think of how different I felt from everyone else. I thought of how one day I just stopped feeling like an outsider, no rhyme or reason. And then I stopped and thought, what if I never stopped feeling like an outsider? And I thought of Pentecost. What if they never started speaking in tongues?

I would not have become the person I am today, and those people gathering during pentecost would have never known the

beauty in getting to know their fellow christians. If those disciples never went beyond their comfort zones and talked to people whom they never would have before, the Church would not be what it is today

I am a white cisgendered woman. I have never felt the way an LGBTQ+ person would feel when our church excludes them. However, I am an ally. And you can be too. I am someone who is standing up and saying no more. And YOU can be too! Stop the hate. Because if we never had gotten to know our queer, black,

hispanic, women, native american FAMILY IN
CHRIST, who would we be?

Visiting Nicaragua and China with my
United Methodist family, has taught me so
much about what love really is. People who
don't look like me, or act like me, or speak the
same language, spread some of the most
powerful love I have ever felt. Not
understanding a culture or a gender identity is
not an excuse. Ask questions, share your
pronouns, adapt. My name is Elyse, I use
she/her pronouns. I know we are United
Methodist, but we need to get used to change.
We need to love those for who they are. When

we have people tell us they are hurt, we need to listen. Ask how we can be better allies, what can we do to make people more comfortable. Accept when we have hurt someone. Apologize for your hurtful actions.

When I was 12 my Aunt Became my uncle. And while I still love him in the exact same way, I know there are still people saying “I’ll be praying for her”. **THAT IS NOT WHO THEY ARE.** God made each and every one of us to grow and evolve in who we are created to be. God knows the plans that are in store for us. Each and everyone of us is reflecting the imagine God wants us to have. God did not

promote the hate and pain we have caused our christ family. We must embrace all children of God. Our love must never change, for all people, in all times. If you ask me, if we aren't loving all people of the world, We have had a little too much wine.