

***WHY are we called to be the United Church of Christ in this time and place? To live into God's extravagant welcome and advocate for justice. So that all know love, safety, belonging and dignity.***

**How the South Dakota Conference UCC will live into our "why" statement above:**

Inspiring: Motivating others to be their authentic best selves so they are invited to do likewise

- Courageously allow our full light to shine and become a beacon

Loving: Selflessly giving for the greater good

- Love through action and joyfully love God, love others, and love oneself

Striving for Justice: Striving for impartial equity and human dignity

- Identify injustice and seek to correct it
- Create robust and diverse communication around topics of justice
- Acknowledge our roles in systems of inequity and injustice

Belonging: Recognizing the value of inclusion and relationship

- Acknowledge others as subjects rather than objects
- Nurture dialogue between equals
- Celebrate the uniqueness of each individual

Reconciling: Intentionally restoring broken relationships and connections.

- Provide opportunities to express hurts, make confessions, and seek forgiveness

Supporting: Communicating love and offering resources

- Provide lines of communication for personal and congregational need requests
- Offer encouragement and support for the needs of ministry
- Make available policies and procedures in the day to day operation of the church