

OUR FAITHFUL COMMITMENT TO EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME AND BEING AN LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Because we affirm that the beauty and blessedness of God's creation is present in all people:

We make a conscious and deliberate decision to celebrate the diversity of creation as uniquely embodied in people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+). We honor the sacredness of people's lives through extravagant welcome and unconditional affirmation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Because we confess that harm has been done to LGBTQ+ people in the name of God:

We renounce theologies, ideologies, and doctrines that oppress or exclude anyone of any sexual orientation or gender identity. We intentionally design church systems and structures that both include and amplify the voices of all LGBTQ+ people and center the voices of LGBTQ+ indigenous people and LGBTQ+ people of color.

Because we embrace the extravagant love taught by Jesus:

We celebrate LGBTQ+ youth and work to create a world where youth grow up in loving community. We preach prophetically, witness publicly, and act boldly to live lives of unconditional love.

Because we recognize the need for greater understanding of LGBTQ+ people within our faith communities:

We support one another on journeys of claiming gender identities and sexual orientation. We follow the lead of LGBTQ+ persons and families in order to learn to be allies who actively resist and overcome systemic injustices of all kinds.

Because we look forward to the time when every church in our Conference, in the UCC, in our country, and in our world senses the movement of the Spirit, recognizes that all persons belong to God, and fully celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in its life and ministry:

We strive for justice and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people within all settings of the Conference's ministry, and we support our ministers and laypeople who protest and speak out, and who advocate for equity in access to housing, health care, education, banking, and all other social institutions that disadvantage LGBTQ+ people.

We create Brave Spaces in our Conference and dedicate time for the education, conversation, and discernment central to the journey of being an LGBTQ+ inclusive church, and we invite all congregations to create Brave Space specific to LGBTQ+ inclusion in their own communities.

We hope for each and every congregation to one day prophetically and publicly commit to being an LGBTQ+ inclusive and Open and Affirming Church and to living out that commitment anew each day. We commit to BE Church together, live into God's extravagant welcome, and advocate for justice so that all people may know love, safety, belonging, and dignity.

