

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Madison, Wisconsin

Open and Affirming Statement

In 1992, First Congregational UCC was one of Madison's first faith communities to adopt a formal statement welcoming and affirming ALL people, regardless of sexual orientation. Here is the full text of the statement adopted by our church:

-- As a community of God's children, we, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, acknowledge our shortcomings and our need to reach out to all who wish to affirm their faith with us in this community of faith and to worship with us as members of this congregation.

We acknowledge that the church has often judged and excluded from the community of faith gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons or has been complicit by its silence. We confess the presence of ignorance, fear and hatred in ourselves, in the church and in our society and we ask the grace of God to overcome them.

We invite and welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation/gender expression to join us in our journey of life and faith and to seek to covenant to be responsible to God and to one another.

-- *Open and Affirming Statement adopted 5/3/1992; revised 5/5/2002.*