

## **We are an Open and Affirming Church**

Because we are a Christ-centered church, we seek to follow Christ's two commandments: to love God with all our heart and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In Christ the dividing walls of discrimination are removed, and there are no barriers to those who seek to join us in all elements of worship in our sanctuary.

Because we endorse a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. And because we affirm Christ's unconditional invitation to all person who seek a personal relationship with God through Him, we open our hearts and we open this church to those who do.

And because we are intentionally inclusive, we value all relationships among people. And as God receives each one of us with loving kindness and joy, we welcome all to our house of worship to join together in holy matrimony without regard to age, physical ability, race, cultural background, economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

With God's grace we seek to be inclusive of all persons without regard to race, sex, socio-economic status, age, mental or physical ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We pledge to work for full inclusion of all persons of faith, believing that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:38, 39).

We recognize that this decision to affirm and accept any and all those who seek a relationship with Jesus Christ may concern some in our church family. We pray that the trust you've placed in us to interpret and implement Christ's plan for His house of worship remains. Thank you for your faith in this board and our church family.