

## **Open and Affirming**

The ONA committee has been making progress on our faith's journey to becoming an Open and Affirming Church of the Connecticut UCC. Our draft statement has been written and sent to the CT UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns for editing.

We, the First Congregational Church of East Hartford, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

We promise to welcome into our full life and ministry, children of God, people of every race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ability, and economic status.

We believe that we all can grow and practice a unity of faith that will transcend our differences and together be a living testimony to God's steadfast love.

We embrace the amazing diversity of God's creation and believe everyone is created in God's image. Therefore, everyone is unique, valuable, and loved by God. We believe every child of God deserves our respect and honor.

We practice warm, welcoming, extravagant hospitality, as we, together, continue to learn new things about God.