

## Open and Affirming Pledge

Harmony Creek declares itself to be an Open and Affirming Church. 'Open and Affirming' is the designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the United Church of Christ which make public statements of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

The ONA movement in the United Church of Christ (UCC) began, on a national level, in 1985 when the General Synod (the national delegate body of the UCC) adopted the resolution, Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming (ONA). Building on this extravagant welcome, the 2003 General Synod adopted a resolution Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting Their Civil and Human Rights. In 2005 the United Church of Christ went on record supporting marriage equality.

The central affirmation of an ONA congregation is that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions (or lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people) are welcome in the full life and ministry of the church. The open and affirming is lead by the Open and Affirming Coalition at [openandaffirming.org](http://openandaffirming.org) .