

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For immediate release

EVERYONE WELCOME HERE

January 25, 2015

First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC, Bethany CT  
511 Amity Road, Bethany, Connecticut 06524

EVERYONE WELCOME HERE

With a unanimous vote of the congregation, the First Church of Christ in Bethany has declared itself an “Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ”.

The church members declared that as “all people are welcomed by God’s grace, we welcome all people.”

The church has declared that all people are welcome – people of every race, ethnicity, gender diversity, sexual orientation, marital or socio-economic status, age, and physical or mental ability. Everyone is welcome to worship, service, fellowship and leadership in this church.

“We want to be a place of welcome, a place where people can come, raise their families, experience community and know God’s love. We want to be people who live out God’s welcome in our daily lives,” said interim Pastor Virginia Child. “For instance, one of our members who is a pediatric nurse practitioner, has begun to wear a rainbow lanyard while at work, so that the children she sees will know that she is a safe person to talk with.”

The First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC has been an integral part of Bethany life since 1762. Passionate in its outreach, the church supports area food banks, the New Haven Diaper Bank, and local emergency needs, as well as providing worship and Christian education for all.

For more information, please contact:

The Rev. Dr. Virginia H. Child  
Pastorchild02914@gmail.com  
(774) 218-0738

Attachment: the Church’s formal declaration

The First Church of Christ,  
Congregational, UCC  
Bethany CT

The First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC of Bethany  
is an Open and Affirming Church.

We are open and affirming to all  
who wish to share our faith journey.

All people are welcomed by God's grace and thus  
we welcome all people  
of every race, ethnicity, gender diversity,  
sexual orientation, marital or socio-economic status, age,  
and physical or mental ability  
into the worship, rites, sacraments,  
fellowship and leadership of our church.

We recognize and love  
each and every individual as a child of God.

January 25, 2015