

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Of Mechanicsburg, PA
Open and Affirming Statement**
(Constructed in accordance with the national
United Church of Christ's recommendations)

The people of God at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as beloved children of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

We acknowledge that throughout history, the Christian Church has often condemned and excluded gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people from the community of faith, or has condoned such condemnation and exclusion by its silence. We hold that such discrimination is incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict God's people in our society. We commit ourselves to nondiscrimination in the membership, leadership, and hiring practices of this church. We will condemn all acts of harassment, discrimination, and violence against God's people. We will seek to include and support those, who, because of fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community. We affirm all relationships founded on the principles of God's love and justice. We pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people.

This covenant was adopted by vote of the congregation on May 18, 2003.