

# Greendale Community Church

## Open & Affirming Statement

WE, THE CONGREGATION OF GREENDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, ARE A COMMUNITY OF FAITH-KEEPING AND FAITH-SEEKING PEOPLE WHO AFFIRM THAT EVERY PERSON HAS WORTH AS A UNIQUE CREATION MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. WE RECOGNIZE, CELEBRATE, AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE MANY DIVERSE GIFTS OF GOD AMONG US.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE OPENLY BEFRIEND ALL PEOPLE AND WELCOME THEM TO THE TABLE AS HE DID. JESUS AFFIRMED ALL PEOPLE, RESPECTING AND CHERISHING THEM AS CHILDREN OF A LOVING GOD.

SO SHALL WE.

WITH GOD'S GRACE, WE SEEK TO BE A CONGREGATION THAT INCLUDES ALL PERSONS, EMBRACING DIFFERENCES OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, MARITAL STATUS, AGE, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ABILITY, AS WELL AS RACIAL, ETHNIC, SOCIAL-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND. WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH OUR DIVERSITY, EVERYONE CAN GROW AND PRACTICE A UNITY OF FAITH THAT TRANSCENDS OUR DIFFERENCES. WE WELCOME ALL TO SHARE IN THE FULL LIFE AND LEADERSHIP, MINISTRY, AND FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, SACRAMENTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND BLESSINGS OF PARTICIPATION IN OUR CONGREGATION.

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST, WE HEREBY DECLARE OURSELVES TO BE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CHURCH.