

Resolution on Covenant of Welcome

Whereas the Fort Collins Community of Christ congregation is an open, loving, and welcoming group, and

Whereas, we are called to be a prophetic people in responding to God's call to reach out to the marginalized in our society,

D&C 161: 3a: Open your hearts and feel the yearnings of your brothers and sisters who are lonely, despised, fearful, neglected, unloved. Reach out in understanding, clasp their hands, and invite all to share in the blessings of community created In the name of the One who suffered on behalf of all.

D&C 162: 6b: The One who created all humankind grieves at the shameful divisions within the human family. A prophetic people must work tirelessly to tear down walls of separation and to build bridges of understanding.

D&C 163: 7c, 8c: It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings. Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God's beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices...the Temple calls the entire church to become a sanctuary of Christ's peace, where people from all nations, ethnicities, and life circumstances can be gathered into a spiritual home without dividing walls, as a fulfillment of the vision for which Jesus Christ sacrificed his life.

and

Whereas, many churches outside our denomination and some within our denomination have become welcoming, open, and affirming congregations towards Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, and

Whereas most Christian churches in the past have not been welcoming, and in many cases hostile, towards GLBT persons, and

Whereas the GLBT population in general expects churches to be unwelcoming and an unfriendly environment, and

Whereas the Fort Collins Welcoming Community Network (WCN) Group has, over the past 20 months, provided opportunities for education, discernment, dialogue, and information about the vision and purpose of the WCN organization, therefore be it

Resolved that the Fort Collins Community of Christ become an official Welcoming Community Network congregation, and be it further

Resolved that the congregation adopt and prominently display the following Covenant of Welcome in our facility and, where appropriate, in the community
:

We welcome ALL to our congregation and uphold the dignity and worth of all persons. We extend the love of Jesus Christ to everyone including those who are marginalized for any reason such as: age, race, gender, education, marital status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, political viewpoint, immigration status, gender identity, disability, national origin or religious belief.

Respectfully submitted,

Fort Collins WCN Group
November 22, 2009