

**The Bridgewater, CT Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming Covenant Statement**

*"I give you a new commandment: love each other. Just as I have loved you,
so you also must love each other" John 13:34*

We are all ONE. We celebrate everyone and affirm that every individual is a Beloved Child of God including people of all ages, shapes, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education, and spiritual and religious traditions. We cannot and will not be separated by our differences, we celebrate our similarities.

We were created as diverse pieces of the amazing puzzle of Life. With any one piece missing the puzzle would not be whole. Each of us is an essential element in the overall design. Each of us has been crafted by our Creator for different purposes. Together, as a whole, we work to bring God's Beauty, Peace, Justice and Healing into the world.

We, the members of The Bridgewater Congregational church, United Church of Christ, Bridgewater, Ct welcome ALL into our midst. We invite and welcome people of all ages to share in the full life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. We recognize that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We understand that our purpose is to love ALL of God's People and Creation itself.

We are an Open and Affirming community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Smith, Alan Smith, Pamela Hochstetter, Jeanne Papparazzo, Rev.
Abby Gackenheime