

FPL Open & Welcoming Statement

Resolution Adopted at the Annual Meeting, June 12, 1995

Recognizing that lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons are often undervalued and discriminated against in society and in churches, we, the people of The First Parish in Lincoln, affirm the importance of becoming an “Open and Welcoming Church”, one that values the lives of all people without regard to sexual orientation.

We, the people of The First Parish in Lincoln, resolve:

- To welcome to our congregation and our lives, homosexual and bisexual individuals, couples and families;
- To nurture an ongoing dialogue among persons of differing sexual orientations;
- To learn to respect experiences and perspectives of homosexual persons in church programs and religious education;
- To offer full congregational and ministerial support to all persons regardless of sexual orientation, including celebration of life events, such as baptisms, weddings, and memorial services.

DRAFT Resolution for the Annual Meeting, June 5, 2023

By Andy Clark, Becca Fasciano, Sarah Klockowski, Jacqueline Laferriere, Jeani Welsh

Recognizing that lesbian, gay, bisexual, **transgender, nonbinary, and queer** persons are often undervalued and discriminated against in society and in churches, we, the people of The First Parish in Lincoln, affirm the importance of becoming an **“Open and Affirming Church” (UCC designation)** and a **“Welcoming Congregation” (UUA designation)**, one that values the lives of all people without regard to sexual orientation, **gender identity, or gender expression**.

We, the people of The First Parish in Lincoln, resolve:

- To welcome to our congregation and our lives, **LGBTQ+** individuals, couples, and families **with open hearts and open minds**;
- To nurture an ongoing dialogue among persons of differing sexual orientations, **gender identities, and gender expressions**;
- To **offer** church programming and religious education **for all ages** that respects, **represents, and recognizes the variety of** experiences and perspectives of **LGBTQ+** persons;
- **To intentionally design church systems and structures that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ persons in the full life of the church**;
- To offer full congregational and ministerial support to **persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions**, including celebration of life events, such as baptisms, **naming ceremonies**, weddings, and memorial services; and
- **To advocate for the respect and civil rights of LGBTQ+ persons in our broader communities.**