

**Open and Affirming Statement Voted on by Church Members  
at a Special Congregational Meeting on November 20, 2005  
Community Church of Durham, NH UCC**

Committed to the call of God as expressed in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and guided by our covenant, Community Church of Durham declares itself to be an Open and Affirming congregation. We embrace, affirm and celebrate the diversity of the human family. We welcome persons of every race, ethnicity, social and economic status, age, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation in our common purpose to discern and live according to the will of God. We honor human relationships that are based on love, responsibility, mutual respect, trust and fidelity.

We believe that attitudes and acts of injustice, discrimination and violence work against the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we accept God's call to work to overcome these attitudes in ourselves and others. We offer all sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith, and extend all responsibilities and privileges to those who choose covenant membership. We are secure in the knowledge that God's love is for everyone, and we invite all persons to join in the full life and ministry of this church.