

# **Opening and Affirming Covenant**

## ***First Congregational Church, New London***

### ***Adopted Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018***

At First Congregational Church, New London, we believe that humanity was created in God's image, and that God's love is poured out equally and abundantly on all people; we believe that Jesus Christ, the incarnation of divine love on earth, reached across boundaries and divisions to bring all of creation into full communion with its Creator; and we believe that we are called to love others "as Christ first loved us."

Therefore, at First Congregational Church, New London, we welcome, affirm, and honor all of God's beloved children-- including people of all ages, races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, political affiliations, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, educational backgrounds, or spiritual and religious traditions.

All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Finally, as an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, we seek always to expand our welcome, to raise our awareness of vulnerable or marginalized communities, and to bring Christ's radical love to every corner of our community. We acknowledge that we will make mistakes sometimes, but when we do, we will rely on God's grace to guide our steps, seeking always and everywhere to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

