

A First Church | Affirmation of Faith

At First Church we are an open place for all to worship, grow, and serve.

We believe you do not need to be anyone other than who you are.

We encourage authenticity and vulnerability. We believe there is strength found in the integration of all of our experiences, including the falls. We are invited to own our difficult stories, unveil the mask, and live into who God uniquely created us to be.

We believe the doors of our church are not only open to a few.

We believe that all means all. We practice radical hospitality and recognize that we are inextricably bound together in God's love. All are welcome here.

We believe that the community of First Church should not be a homogenous body.

We celebrate our diversity. We view our church body as a tapestry; each colorful thread is woven together with intentionality. There is beauty in our differences.

We believe that discrimination on the grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race, or sexuality is not reflective of Jesus' teachings.

We believe in creating an inclusive community. We acknowledge the ways many of us have felt excluded by the church, and we therefore strive to be a refuge of hope and compassion for all people.

We believe that there are no easy answers.

We embrace difficult questions. Although it is often uncomfortable, we believe that wrestling with tough questions leads to profound spiritual growth. Our doubts and uncertainties are respectfully received in this place.

We believe that silence in the face of inhumanity, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and destruction is not acceptable.

We speak out against injustice. We believe in a kingdom that begins now, not later. Our voices are important and we will use our gifts and talents to bring forth justice and mercy for our neighbors.

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by Elena Harmon

