

The Council has been meeting regularly, mostly to discuss our welcome/open and affirming statement, as Diane described in her most recent sermon. We have been through hours of discussion, many drafts and many more emails. At our November meeting we voted to present to the congregation the draft Diane presented on Sunday and which you will see below.

We invite the congregation to discuss this statement on January 8 and then to vote on it as our official welcome and mission statement at a meeting on January 15. We hope to see you all on both occasions, and we encourage your input.

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Welcoming Statement:

We, the Salisbury Congregational Church, seek to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds and love our neighbors as ourselves.

This Church declares itself to be Open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment regardless of race, ancestry, class, gender identity, physical/mental ability or sexual orientation.

We further declare ourselves to be Affirming of each individual as a child of God, celebrating the total identity of each person.

As a declared Open and Affirming Congregation, we commit ourselves to work toward ending ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against any person including our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers. *No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*