

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALBANY, NY

STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVENESS

"The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall give full expression to the rich diversity within its membership and shall provide means which will insure greater inclusiveness leading to wholeness in its emerging life." (*Book of Order*, G-4.0403)

"One becomes an active member of the Church through faith and in Jesus Christ as Savior and acceptance of his Lordship in all of life. An active member is entitled to the rights and privileges of the Church... including the right to hold office."
(*Book of Order*, G-5.0101 and 5.0202)

In harmony with the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we welcome all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, into the full life and service of the church. The Apostle Paul writes, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3: 27-28) We affirm that in Christ the barriers that separate us from one another have been destroyed, and we commit ourselves to work for the day when all people in church and society are free to fully share in oneness of God's reign.

Therefore, we do not select one particular element from a person's total humanity as a basis for full participation in the body of Christ; and all persons who choose to unite as members of The First Presbyterian Church of Albany, New York have extended to them the full privileges and responsibilities of membership. We align ourselves with other congregations who have taken similar stands; and we will work within the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly to make the appropriate changes to include gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual persons in the full life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Adopted by the Session on March 19, 1996

Revised August 30, 2005