

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

proudly announces they are now



On Wednesday evening, November 9, in a relatively quiet but unanimous vote, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Scotia, NY voted to affirm the mission statement of More Light Presbyterians, and to declare ourselves to be a More Light Presbyterian Church.

The Mission Statement of More Light Presbyterians

“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.”

It was something we had discussed briefly, maybe 20 years ago, and at that moment, the time wasn't right. In recent years, we have participated in the Albany Presbytery Presbyterian Rainbow sponsored CommUNITY ad, and had some folks come to talk to the Session about being more welcoming and inclusive, but this most recent leg of our journey was triggered when a young woman who grew up at Trinity, and is about to start her second term as a Deacon, came to one of the pastors and said, “I know that I am welcome here as an out Lesbian, but I am wondering if we could begin to explore ways that Trinity could make it clearer to the outside LGBTQ+ community that we are a place that is safe and welcoming. I know what a wonderful place this is, but most of my friends cannot believe that any church could ever be welcoming.” We gathered a small group of folks that we were sure would be totally supportive, and began to discuss possibilities. She spoke to a gathering of all of the Session and Deacons, with such powerful words . . . after which the Worship chair, with Session approval, placed a small rainbow ribbon along the front of our pulpit, and announced to the congregation that this was intended to be a visual sign of our welcome.

There were so many positive responses and comments, that it became clear that we were ready. We had thought it might take a few more months, and some study and discussion, but the

response to the ribbon so positive that it seemed silly to waste any more time. So the small group wrote up a request to Session to approve the More Light statement. Session discussed it at the October Session meeting. A cautious decision was made to let the congregation know ahead of time that this vote was likely, to give the opportunity for questions or concerns to be expressed, as well as suggestions for more inclusivity; an article was placed in the newsletter, there were no concerns expressed, and so—as said above—in a quiet vote the day after the Presidential election, our session voted unanimously to affirm the More Light Mission statement.