

**DRAFT
ROCK SPRING CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
PROPOSED REVISION TO ITS OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

IN LIGHT OF OUR:

- UCC Statement of Faith, the Covenant of Rock Spring Church, and our steadfast belief in Christ's message of healing love;
- Deepening appreciation of the mystery of God's creation, in all its marvelous complexity;
- Long-standing advocacy of the principles of peace, justice, and equality, as evidenced by our designation as a "Just Peace" Church;
- Mission of support and healing to those in need or pain;
- Abhorrence of hatred and violence against people based on sexual orientation;
- **Prayerful consideration of the UCC 25th General Synod resolution "In Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All"**

WE, THE CONGREGATION,

Declare our church to be Open and Affirming, and we welcome people of every race, nationality, ability, sexual orientation, gender and age to join us in the full life and ministry of Rock Spring Church.

THEREFORE,

We invite all people to share fully in our life together; in worship and service, in employment, in lay and professional leadership and in affirmation of personal life passages, including **marriage ceremonies for all couples regardless of gender.**

We promise our support to all individuals, children and families -- traditional, extended, single-parent, gay and lesbian. We continue to affirm human relationships based on love, support, responsibility and trust.

We pray for God's blessing and grace as we strive for renewal and, in the words of our Rock Spring Church Covenant, "the realization of our one human family."

*This is the proposed revision of Rock Spring's Open and Affirming Statement that was endorsed by Church Council on November 27, 2006. Changes to the original are shown in bold.