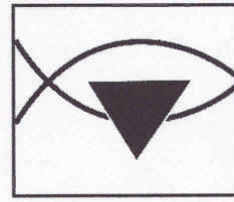


Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ

OPEN AND AFFIRMING STATEMENT

We, the Congregation of **Middleton Community Church, United Church of Christ**, are a community of faith-keeping and faith-seeking people who affirm that every person has worth as a unique creation made in the image of **God**. **We** recognize, celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of **God** among us.

As followers of **Jesus Christ**, we openly befriend all people and welcome them to the table as he did. **Jesus** affirmed all people, respecting and cherishing them as children of a loving **God**. So shall we.

With God's Grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. **We** believe that through our diversity, everyone can grow and practice a unity of faith that transcends our differences.

We welcome all to share in the full life and leadership, ministry, and fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. **Following the example of Jesus Christ**, we hereby declare ourselves to be an

Open and Affirming Church.

Adopted by a **Vote** of the **Congregation**.

William H. O'Neal

Moderator

James D. Ruff

Pastor

Jan. 27, 2008

Date

Jan. 27, 2008

Date