

Open and Affirming Covenant

for

Payson Park Church

United Church of Christ,
Belmont, Massachusetts

adopted March 6, 2022 in a congregational vote

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them." (1 John 4:16)

Responding faithfully and joyfully to God's unconditional love made known to us in Jesus Christ, we at Payson Park Church, United Church of Christ, actively commit ourselves to be an Open and Affirming community.

God calls us to a ministry of reconciliation and love, especially with those who have known the pain of discrimination. We therefore welcome and affirm people of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, faith background, ability, and economic circumstance to join us in our faith journey. We celebrate God's creativity and the diversity of our gifts. Following Jesus' example, who turned no one away, we pledge ourselves to the ongoing work for justice and inclusion in our congregation and in the world.

Trusting in God's grace and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit, we continue to deepen in faith, worship, service, and love, growing with God for the good of the world. We invite into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church all those whom God sends us.

"Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)