

# A Resolution Declaring The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC an Open and Affirming Church

*This Resolution was approved by the members of the Church of the Pilgrimage UCC, in Plymouth Massachusetts, at a special meeting of the Church on January 24, 2010.*



**WHEREAS** the Church of the Pilgrimage is a free church, in the Congregational Christian tradition, subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body;

**WHEREAS** we seek a deeper understanding of God's Word through study of Scripture and the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, and through mutual prayer for each other;

**WHEREAS** we hold it to be the vision of The Church of the Pilgrimage to welcome all people, and respect and value their diverse talents and perspectives;

**WHEREAS** we worship and work together as the Body of Christ through honest, open communication in a positive and loving atmosphere, making decisions together after sharing all the available facts;

**WHEREAS** we commit ourselves to making justice and inclusion a reality in all aspects of our faith journey together;

**WHEREAS** we recognize that we are diverse in our opinions, beliefs, and attitudes toward the issues of sexual orientation and gender identity;



**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we embrace differences in gender, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic and socio-economic background, physical and mental ability. We welcome all people of faith to fully participate in every aspect of our Church's life. We intentionally welcome and affirm all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and others who have historically been excluded from the life of some churches, to journey in faith with us, and to seek Christ's love in our midst. We openly affirm this belief and commit ourselves to its realization in all aspects of our life together.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Church of the Pilgrimage, UCC declares itself to be an **Open and Affirming Congregation**, inviting all into our community of faith, to fully share in all Church life, including our work, worship, rites, and sacraments, with the assurance that we are all created in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Church will set for itself an urgent but mutually agreeable timeline for the implementation of this resolution.