

## **College Hill Presbyterian Church Statement of Welcome and Inclusion**

We believe in one Triune God. Together we testify to God's mighty and merciful acts.

God creates all people to bear the beautiful image of God. Jesus Christ welcomes all people to break bread at his table. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit drives the disciples of Jesus out of their cramped upper room so that they can be surprised and blessed by a world full of people who are not like them.

In faithfulness to our God and in keeping with our Presbyterian faith, we intend College Hill Presbyterian Church to extend genuine welcome to all people and to all kinds of people, including

people of different races, ethnicities, national origin and immigration status,

people of different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions,

people of all ages,

people of all levels of physical and mental ability, neurodivergent and neurotypical,

people of any and all socioeconomic status and educational attainment,

College Hill Presbyterian Church hopes to offer a home to all kinds of families and families in all phases of life: LGBTQIA and straight, blended, single, married, divorced; without children or with children. Our church family is stronger when all kinds of families can belong.

We believe that all people should be welcome to participate fully in the life of College Hill Presbyterian Church: to join us in worship, education and fellowship, to be baptized at the font and fed at Christ's table, to be received into membership, called into service and eligible for ordination as deacons and elders. We believe that the covenant of marriage should be extended to any two consenting adults who seek to enter that covenant based on love, responsibility, mutual respect and trust in God's grace.

We seek to understand one another and celebrate our differences; we believe we will be blessed by them.

We believe that our God calls all kinds of people into the church, connecting us across our differences so that we might receive the good gift of each other. We believe that faithful and faith-filled followers of Jesus Christ can and will disagree about questions of theology, public policy, partisan political affiliation and other matters of conscience. We affirm God's dream of a church that embodies unity-in-diversity.

We recognize and confess that we do not always live up to these ideals. We are sinners saved by grace, and our welcome is a work in progress. But we aspire to become an inclusive community, in which we truly and deeply listen to one another.

We pledge ourselves to the work of ever-increasing welcome.

Our commitment to welcome is rooted in our Reformed faith and shaped by [\*The Book of Order\*](#). College Hill Presbyterian Church belongs to the [Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#) and [\*The Book of Order\*](#) serves as our denomination's governing document.

Specifically, **F-1.0403 (Unity in Diversity) states:**

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

**G-2.0104b (Standards for Ordained Service)** explicitly calls on the church to examine candidates for ordination as to their commitment to diversity. It reads:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404)[, the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and in the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403]. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

We gratefully hear God's call to pursue ever greater inclusion. Relying on God's grace, we commit ourselves to the work of welcoming all.

-Adopted by unanimous vote of The Session of College Hill Presbyterian Church.  
December 16, 2025