



June 14, 2026

Celebration of Queer Saints  
Service of Word

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† Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

*If I Loved You*

Richard Rodgers

Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.  
**Thanks be to God!**

† Call to Worship

In the image of God, you created everything and called it good!  
In abundant diversity, your likeness is found in us.  
We reject all messages that belittle or degrade any among us.  
And so in faithfulness to God and one another we proclaim:  
**Sacred are our bodies of every size and dis/ability.**

Blessed are our sexualities, drawing us towards love of many kinds.  
**Beloved is every gender, revealing you in different ways.**

To our skin, beautiful in every shade, we say hallelujah!  
**Praise God, our Creator, who blesses us with this world,  
these bodies, and our fellow creatures, all created good, very good.**

Let us worship God!

## † Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Fount of Boundless Welcome*

NETTLETON



1. Come, Thou Fount of bound-less wel - come, tune our hearts to sing Your grace; ev - ery  
 2. We were told that we were dif - ferent, we were named as less-than, wrong; still Your  
 3. O to grace how fierce and faith - ful, break-ing chains of fear and shame; heal-ing  
 4. God of co - ve - nant and pro - mise, sign of hope a - cross the sky, call us



5 life and ev - ery sto - ry finds in You a sa - cred place. Streams of  
 Spir - it moved a - mong us, whis - per - ing, "You still be - long." You have  
 wounds from church and cul - ture, speak-ing life in love's own name. Bind us  
 in - to deep - er jus - tice, where no child is cast a - side. Till all



9 mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, flow through those once cast a - side; in Your  
 called us, claimed, and known us, blessed the truth we could not hide; in Your  
 now to one a - noth - er, make us strong and make us brave; send us  
 peo - ple live in free - dom, till all know their sac - red worth, we will



13 love we claim our sto - ries, fear and shame no long - er hide.  
 im - age, all re - flect - ed, each be - lov - ed, dig - ni - fied.  
 out to live Your wel - come, love more bold - ly, wide as grace.  
 sing and work for wel - come, love a - live in all the earth.

## † Invocation

*A St. Francis Prayer for ONA Churches*

Maren Tirabassi

God, help us play instruments of your Church.

Where there is fear let us sing and Sign;

where there is loneliness take our hands from strumming our own strings  
 to pass the peace;

where there's injustice let our drum beat a public stand.

Where there is division harmonize our voices in Pride Communion;

where there is despair, hurt, confusion, because of experiences

in faith communities of the past let us listen to the tune of tears

and wherever, whenever your children have been silenced,

let us pass the mic to the Holy Spirit.

O Holy God, grant that we may not so much seek congratulations for some past vote,

as new advocacy for your all people in the terrible dangers of today,

our theology presented and approved, as a visceral understanding

of the pain caused by "Christians," of which none of us is innocent,

a focus on our church annual Pride events, as willingness this year

to lift a rainbow in stormy states where children are denied medical care.

For it is in trying to be church, rather than hiding in one, that we are broken open,

facing failures, then naming them, that we learn forgiveness.  
 It is welcoming all to the sweet traditions of every year –  
 Advent to Pentecost to Advent come again,  
 walking the daily path of disciples through this particular year's quicksand  
 without sinking into old safety  
 and it is in "June-ing" every month, that we discover your holy queer love  
 is already the music we hear. **Amen.**

Let us sing praise to God.  
**We will continually praise God's holy name.**

† Gloria Patri

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Paul M. Vasile

Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the  
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out

3  
 Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has  
 end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, with-out

6  
 set me free, As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.  
 end. A - men.

An Introduction to Queer Saints

## David and Jonathan



Manuscript illustration. La Somme le roy circa 1300 AD

Old Testament Lesson

**1 Samuel 17:57-18:4**

On David's return from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with the head of the Philistine in his hand. Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house. Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as his own soul. Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that he was wearing and gave it to David and his armor and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said, “Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath; proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice; the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”

## Reflection

**Sergius and Bacchus**

Alessio Ciani (1946 - living) Italy. © 2013

We rejoice in you, Lord, because you have clothed us with the garment of salvation, and have covered us with the robe of righteousness; as brides you have decked us with women's gowns and joined us together for you through our confession.

Why do you grieve and mourn, brother? If I have been taken from you in body, I am still with you in the bond of union.... Hurry then, yourself, brother, through beautiful and perfect confession to pursue and obtain me, when finishing the course. For the crown of justice for me is with you.

## Reflection

## Hymn

*The Love That Goes Unspoken*

LLANGLOFFAN



1. The love that goes un - spo - ken, that fears would force to hide, still  
 2. As po - ets and mu - si - cians, in Pi - e - tàs of grace, the  
 3. In var - ied forms of fam - 'ly, in un - ions yet un - blessed, as  
 4. Christ loves with - out dis - tinc - tion, both joys and sor - rows borne, and



5 blooms in clos - et spac - es, too strong to be de - nied. The  
 out - cast of our church - es cast light on Mys - t'ry's face. They  
 sis - ters and as broth - ers and kin with earth's op - pressed, all  
 wel - comes o - pen - heart - ed the ones whom oth - ers scorn. We



9 Spir - it's wind blows free - ly to o - pen bolt - ed doors, and  
 trans - late for our wit - ness the gifts the gos - pel brings, and  
 dwell with - in God's house - hold, yet some bear in - sults hurled to  
 shall not, then, be shack - led by need - less guilt or shame. In



13 beck - on in - to day - light a love that hate de - plores.  
 cel - e - brate God's gran - deur in rare and dap - pled things.  
 chide the so - called "bar - ren" whose chil - dren are the world's.  
 Christ, the love un - spo - ken now dares to speak its name.

## Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip



Menologion of Basil II, an 11th-century illuminated manuscript

### Old Testament Lesson      **Isaiah 56:4-5**

To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant — to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.

### New Testament Lesson      **Acts 8:26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep

he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reflection

### Joan of Arc



St. Joan of Arc icon by Theophilia

## Reading

The judges summarized Joan's testimony by saying, "You have said that, by God's command, you have continually worn man's dress, wearing the short robe, doublet, and hose attached by points; that you have also worn your hair short, cut 'en rond' above your ears with nothing left that could show you to be a woman; and that on many occasions you received the Body of our Lord dressed in this fashion, although you have been frequently admonished to leave it off, which you have refused to do, saying that you would rather die than leave it off, save by God's command."

## Reflection

### Hymn

### *Sing a New World*

### HYMN TO JOY



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing Where each gen - der, class, and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing Where the home - less find a home,  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



5 Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
**Brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors To God's lim - it - less em - brace;**  
Where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger But are filled in God's sha - lom;  
**For a time of health and plen - ty When all tears have been wiped dry;**



9 Dream a church where all who wor - ship Find their lives and loves be - long.  
**Where the lines that once di - vid - ed Form in - stead the ties that bind.**  
Where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, Where all hate and venge - ance cease.  
**When com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, Pour - ing balm for all who grieve.**



13 Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
**Sing a new world in - to be - ing: Risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!**  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: Raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
**Sing a new world in - to be - ing: Live the prom - ise you be - lieve!**

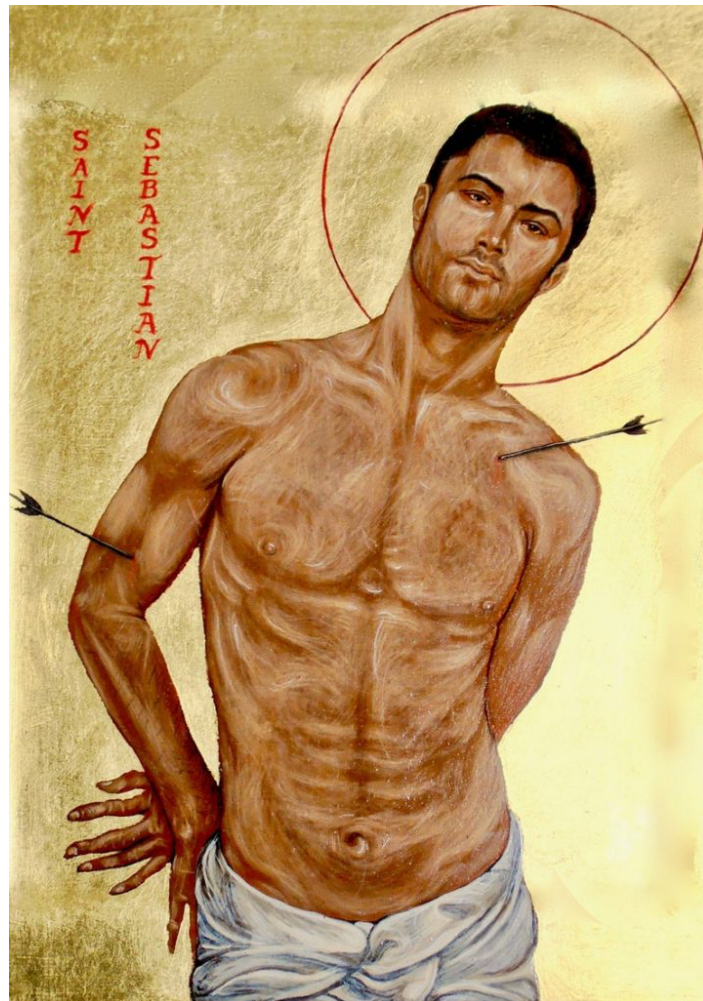
Call to Order

Approve Annual Reports

Approve 2026-27 Slate of Officers

Approve proposed bylaw revisions

### **Saint Sebastian**



“Saint Sebastian” by Regan O’Callaghan.

Saint Sebastian,  
patron saint of Queers  
for no other reason than  
we claim you,  
and we claim you because  
we know what it is to be pierced,  
both by love and by hate.  
We have felt the ecstasy  
of the love's golden arrows  
and we have felt the savage hate  
of the iron arrows of vicious empires,  
both sacred and profane.  
Saint Sebastian,  
we offer you our prayers  
and all our holy and fleshly desires.  
We lay at your blood-stained  
feet all the shame that we have  
failed to burn in the throes of passion.  
Saint Sebastian,  
pray for us,  
that we may survive  
the sharp arrows of hate  
they fire into our lives.

Reflection

## Aelred



**S. AELRED**

Aelred appears in the 1845 frontispiece to the “Lives of the English Saints” by John Henry Newman, who is also considered a gay saint by many.

### Reading

#### *On Spiritual Friendship (De spirituali amicitia)*

“It is no small consolation in this life to have someone who can unite with you in an intimate affection and the embrace of a holy love, someone in whom your spirit can rest, to whom you can pour out your soul, to whose pleasant exchanges, as to soothing songs, you can fly in sorrow... with whose spiritual kisses, as with remedial salves, you may draw out all the weariness of your restless anxieties. A man who can shed tears with you in your worries, be happy with you when things go well, search out with you the answers to your problems, whom with the ties of charity you can lead into the depths of your heart; . . . where the sweetness of the Spirit flows between you, where you so join yourself and cleave to him that soul mingles with soul and two become one.”

### Reflection

## Hymn

*Look! The Love That Was Unspoken*

LAUDA ANIMA



1. Look! The love that was un - spok - en shines with col - or, pow'r, and light,  
 2. Prais-ing shards of light that glis - ten with the truth that sets us free,  
 3. All our art and mu - sic wov - en with di - vi - ni - ty and grace  
 4. So the fu - ture o - pens for us: gal - ax - ies be - yond our glance,

10



love that nev - er can be brok - en forg-ing jus - tice, putt - ing right.  
 mul - ti - tudes clasp hands of friend-ship, all who claim hu - man - i - ty:  
 has its or - i - gin, in - car - nate, born with - in our hu - man race,  
 bound for - ev - er to each oth - er, held by more than cos - mic chance.

18



Here we live in grace and won - der own - ing God's di - ver - si - ty.  
 noth - ing can di - vert our pur - pose, one in our di - ver - si - ty.  
 dis - a - gree - ment can - not break our Spi - rit of di - ver - si - ty.  
 Noth - ing now will fault our spir - it: CE - LE - BRATE DI - VER - SI - TY!!!

## Prayer

**Litany of Queer Saints**

Everlasting God, we thank you for the lives of our LGBTQ and ally saints and martyrs. May they always inspire us to live with courage, hope, and loving hearts. Saints of Stonewall, who performed the miracle of transforming self-hatred into pride, pray for us.  
**Saint Joan of Arc, fearless warrior and gender-queer martyr, pray for us.**

Saint Sergius and Saint Bacchus, male couple united in love and death, pray for us.  
**Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity, who shared a holy kiss before dying, patron saints of same-sex couples, pray for us.**

Saint Mychal Judge, fire-brigade chaplain and first martyr of 9/11, recognized for your queer spirit, pray for us  
**Saint Brigid and Saint Darlughdach, women soulmates whose lives together were aflame with the Holy Spirit, pray for us.**

Saint John, Beloved Disciple, apostle and evangelist who lay on Jesus' chest at the last supper, pray for us.  
**Saint Francis of Assisi, gender nonconformist who loved all creation without limits, pray for us.**

Saint Desmond Tutu, South Africa's strong LGBTQ ally who taught that racism and homophobia are connected, pray for us.  
**Saint Alan Turing, who ended war, saved millions and changed the world, pray for us.**

Dame Julian of Norwich, who celebrated “Mother Jesus,” pray for us.  
**Saint David Kato, Ugandan activist and resilient martyr, pray for us.**

Saint Marsha P. Johnson, Stonewall instigator, and revolutionary black trans activist,  
pray for us.  
**Saints Jonathan and David, Saints Ruth and Naomi, biblical images of same-gender  
love, pray for us**

Saint Harvey Milk, martyred gay rights pioneer, pray for us.  
**Saint Matthew Shepard, crucified by hate-filled men, young forever, pray for us.**

Pulse 49 Martyrs of Orlando, shielding those you loved with your own bodies, pray for  
us.  
**Martyrs of the UpStairs Lounge fire, whose memory burns in our hearts, pray for  
us.**

Martyrs of the pink triangle and the black triangle, sent to concentration camps by the  
Nazis for homosexuality, pray for us.  
**All who have lived and died for love, peace and justice, pray for us.**

Jesus, friend and liberator of outcasts, tortured and killed on the cross for loving beyond  
limits, pray for us. Prophets in our midst usually get marginalized and thumped down by  
the powers that be. Thank you, Holy Sophia, for blessing and encouraging them to  
witness and reveal aspects of your sweet mercy and love! Thank you, Great Teachers, as  
we continue to grow in knowledge of those who have gone before us. May you be  
surrounded by the Divine Light especially as we give thanks for you. All you LGBTQ  
saints, named and unnamed, pray for us. Empowered by your spirit and your example, we  
move forward in solidarity with all creation to embody justice, love, integrity and peace.  
May your memories be a powerful call to action. On your shoulders we stand! Blessed be  
your memory! May your rainbow light shine upon us! **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will  
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

*Testify to Love*

Field, Pool, Manen, & Riekerk

For as long as I shall live, I will tes - ti - fy to love. I'll be a wit - ness in the si -

4  
- lenc - es when words are not e - nough. With ev - 'ry breath I take, I will give thanks to God a - bove.

7  
For as long as I shall live, I will tes - ti - fy to love.

† Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

Response to the Peace

*Kaleidoscope Heart*

Sara Bareilles

All the colors of the rain - bow hid - den 'neath my skin.

5  
Hearts have col - ors, don't we all know. Red runs through our veins.

9  
Feel the fi - re burning up In - spi - re me with blood of blue and green.

13  
I have hope. In - side is not a heart, but a ka - lei - do - scope.

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus said: The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore we ask the Lord to send us out as laborers for the harvest. Let us offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

† Doxology

*Pride Doxology*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

To You we sing our var-ied song, O God, to whom all lives be - long: Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-  
 6 lu - ia! Your likeness in us ev-er glows, Your pleasure in us on-ly grows: Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-  
 12 lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

† Prayer of Dedication

Blessed Trinity, three-part harmony, in you those who sing for joy revel in your glory, and those who cry in pain find comfort in their sorrow. Thank you for being God with us. Thank you for keeping your promises to our faith ancestors and to us. Thank you for coming near to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for hope that brings life through the inpouring of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for the love you hold up before the world on the cross of Christ our Savior. Even our offerings come from the fruits of your blessings. Praise to you, O Holy God! Thanks to you, O Holy Three! Glory to your name, O God Most High! **Amen.**

Installation of Leaders in the Church

Dear friends,  
 you have been called by God and chosen by the people of God for leadership in the church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us and for us. In love we thank you for accepting your obligation and challenge you to offer your best to the Lord, to this people, and to our ministry in the world. Live a life in Christ and make him known in your witness and your work.

Today we install these board members.  
 Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ?  
**I do.**

Will you devote yourself to the service of God in the world?  
**I will.**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace?

**I will.**

Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

**I will.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given particular ministries in your church. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of our Lord, who did not think first of himself, but gave himself for us all. Let them share his ministry and consecration, that they may enter into his joy. Guide them in their work. Reward their faithfulness with the knowledge that through them your purposes are accomplished; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dear friends, rejoice that God provides laborers for the vineyards. Will you do all you can to assist and encourage them in the responsibilities to which they have been called, giving them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers?

**We will.**

† Closing Hymn

*The Summons*

KELVINGROVE



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
 2. **Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?**  
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4. **Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?**  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

8



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same? Will you  
**Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same? Will you**  
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same? Will you  
**Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same? Will you**  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same. In your

17



let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
**risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?**  
 kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
**use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,**  
 com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

24



will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
**Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?**  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?  
**through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† Benediction

Postlude

*Seasons of Love*

Jonathan Larson

## **WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT**

We, Enfield UCC, commit ourselves to providing and promoting education, activities, and resources for individuals and families, as well as advocating for legislative action and collaborating with other mental health organizations. To that end, we joyously extend our church's compassionate welcome and love to members and non-members alike who experience mental illnesses or are touched by them.

## **WELCOME STATEMENT**

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

## **ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY**

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.