

## **Welcoming Declaration – Part 2**

### **2. Welcoming Statement for Gays and Lesbians**

At St. Mark's we believe that God loves all people. We believe God is passionately seeking every child, woman and man into a close and life-giving relationship. Therefore, God wants to offer love to people of every race, ethnic group, sexual orientation, educational background and age group. Within this relationship God offers, each of us are invited to experience the peace, joy and freedom that only God can give through God's Son, Jesus.

We believe that sin and evil are real in the world, and within each of us. Therefore each of us has and all of us have participated in tearing the fabric of love which God has created. We are called to repent of that damage and darkness, and then to receive the forgiveness only God can give.

We especially want to invite our gay and lesbian sisters and brothers, and all others who may have found themselves disenfranchised, because of our corporate and individual sin and fallenness. We would be blessed by God and by you if you would become a part of our community so that we could learn from you and with you. We believe it takes a diverse village to even begin to reflect the rich and immensely varied imagination of God, and we believe that together, we can help reflect, and bring in God's kingdom on earth.

Approved by Council: 1-18-10