

Statement to the Community

Our congregation celebrates the *Welcome and Inclusion Statement of the First Baptist Church*. But what does it mean? The statement rejoices in the image of God found in each person, including every soul that might name the letters LGBTQ+ in one part of their life's story. We are a fellowship that celebrates beautiful belonging to God and one another, a gathering in which we joyfully proclaim the SACRED WORTH of all people.

It is fair to ask, "What does this really mean for me as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?" People of faith have not always been kind or open or accepting. The statement really means YES! It is an enthusiastic invitation to explore faith, to worship and pray, to celebrate marriage, to share in leadership and ministry of the church, to find one's best path as a follower of Jesus. That's it! No other qualifications or boundaries hinder anyone as we "share in the graces of church membership over a lifetime."

We need you! The statement speaks to our church's need as well. If the Spirit is nudging you our way, we sit waiting, less whole, still searching for the people we might become if you live your faith in our midst. We discover more about God's love through your YES to this holy welcome. Truly, our doors are open to you.