Supportive Fellowship

First Mennonite Church

Reedley, CA

**Statement of Welcome & Inclusion**

The Supportive Fellowship of First Mennonite Church in Reedley, California welcomes all persons, no matter who you are or where you have come from. All persons are beloved of God and have sacred worth in God’s eyes.

In particular, this statement is a commitment to welcoming and including those who are part of the LGBTQ community. Having witnessed the presence of God’s grace, the love of Jesus, and the indwelling of the Spirit in the lives of our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, we want to fully accept all into the congregational life, work and fellowship of First Mennonite Church, Reedley, California.

We reject all behavior that is abusive, exploitive, oppressive and manipulative. Instead, as Jesus taught and lived, we commit in all of our lives and relationships to show the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We are committed to:

1. Welcoming all who seek to follow Christ as members of First Mennonite Church Reedley.
2. Listening to the experiences and feelings of LGBTQ persons, as well as others who may feel misunderstood or excluded.
3. Nondiscrimination in selecting church leadership positions.
4. Nondiscrimination in hiring church staff.
5. Affirming our pastors’ full participation in all aspects of pastoral care, rites, and blessings, including weddings for all individuals and families.

As a body of Christ, the Supportive Fellowship at First Mennonite Church in Reedley is committed to following Jesus and living in community, practicing forbearance and respect, and refraining from judgment or contempt as described in Romans 14. The mysterious workings of God have drawn us together. Therefore we hold steady in love.

2/16/2022