

May 31, 2019

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County
416 Franklin St
Reading, PA 19602

Dear Carole and Members of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County,

Congratulations!

I am delighted to inform you that First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County 's application to renew its Welcoming Congregation status has been APPROVED. Sincere congratulations on your ongoing commitment to serve the LGBTQ+ community in and beyond Reading, PA.

It was a pleasure to read what you have accomplished and the powerful work you have done since you were originally recognized as a Welcoming Congregation 12 years ago. Thank you for putting so much effort into summarizing and detailing your efforts. It is clear that FUUCBC's becoming recognized as a Welcoming Congregation is a commitment rather than an end point.

I am delighted to learn of your spouse's powerful experience at your congregation during their transition in 2016. It matters that your UU family can be trusted to hold the two of you as you moved through this special time. I also appreciate the ministry of presence practiced as FUUCBC has shown up with Pride in your community to ban conversion therapy, advocate for pride in Chester County, and sponsor Pride Fest in 2019. It matters that LGBTQ folx have a spiritual ally as we continue to strive for equality with dignity in the public square.

As you seek to support your cisgender congregation members in growing their understanding of "Welcoming," please consider participating in our new annual renewal program, *The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal*, beginning 2019. For more information on please visit: www.uua.org/lgbtq, subscribe to the quarterly **UPLIFT newsletter**, and read the **UPLIFT blog**. We also invite you to join the new Welcoming Congregations of Unitarian Universalism Facebook Group and follow UPLIFT Twitter and Instagram @uua_lgbtq.

You can expect to receive two newly designed Welcoming Congregation posters in the mail. In the meantime, you have approval to use the new Welcoming Congregation logo on your website and other materials.

Thanks again for your congregation's life-giving, essential work!

With appreciation,



Michael J. Crumpler
LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director

