

## Commitment to Inclusiveness

Adopted May 21, 1991

COMMUNICATION means paying attention not only to what we say and intend but also to what others hear, understand feel when we speak.

LANGUAGE does more than communicate ideas and information: it reflects the assumptions and values we share with others in our culture; it shapes the way we understand ourselves and organize our world.

In our WORDS about God, we are called to include the richness of who God is – freeing the image of God from human limitation while maintaining the names and images of God is revealed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. In our WORDS about persons, we are called to inclusive so none are excluded because of our chosen words.

Inclusiveness means not only ‘Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female’ persons regardless of color, persons with physically or mentally challenging conditions, poor or wealthy, laity and clergy, single and married, rural and urban, and all ages – inclusiveness also means valuing the experience and history of all God’s people in the whole life of the church.

### BY ADOPTING THIS COMMITMENT WILL

-Work toward having a church membership that reflects the social, racial and ethnic diversity of our community.

-Be committed to teaching inclusiveness in the entire life of the church and modeling inclusiveness in the spectrum of church activities and government.

-Seek to use a variety of images of God to more fully express the richness of God’s nature, taking care to reflect the triune nature of God.

-Seek to use inclusive language in reference to human beings in the worship life of our congregation.

-Be open as listeners to the variety of perspectives that enrich the body of Christ.

-Be intentionally open and inclusive in our employment practices.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_