



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ

A STATEMENT ABOUT THE RECENT ELECTION

On Monday, November 28, 2016, The Executive Council of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC, issued the following statement:

The Executive Council of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, makes the following statement in the wake of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

We are called to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. Our duty as a Christian community of faith impels us to speak out for justice and the full human rights of all persons. In the present moment, we feel the need to speak most forcefully for those whose rights are most at risk—for immigrants' rights, for women's rights, for the rights of the LGBTQ community, and for rights of religiously and racially diverse members of our society.

We recognize that when the nation reacts to the fears which divide us, we are not showing our best selves. Instead we strive to deepen our understanding of what divides us, in an effort to build unity and trust.

We renounce in the strongest possible terms the proposed immigration policies of the incoming Administration. The unimaginable human costs of deporting millions of undocumented persons from our nation should not be incurred or tolerated. We urge instead the creation of a just and humane immigration policy. As Christians, we believe in the God-given worth of all individuals.

We renounce all expressions of hatred. As Christians, we are called to love God with all our might, and our neighbors as ourselves. We have seen our members and our neighbors feel fear and mistrust. The failure of the President-Elect to dissuade his advocates from physical and emotional abuse of certain persons, both religiously and racially targeted, especially Muslims, Jews, and persons of African descent, is duly noted and questioned. We continue to monitor reports of the Southern Poverty Law Center recounting these incidents—867 in the three weeks since the election.

As an Open and Affirming church, dedicated to inclusion of all, we decry the potential loss of human rights for the LGBTQ community, and continue to offer all support in maintaining those rights.

As a Just Peace church, we seek nonviolent means to deal with political difference. We oppose violent displays of state-sanctioned police powers, as is happening at Standing Rock, and in black and brown communities across this nation.

As stewards of the earth, we are dedicated to preserving God's creation. We strongly urge the support of the Paris Peace accord, as a means of saving our planet from destruction.

As a church that seeks to follow Jesus' way of reconciliation, we also commit to listening with open minds and hearts to the pain – emotional, economic or otherwise - that is held by those who may not share our political views or values. We do this while nevertheless choosing the side of justice and full humanity, dignity, and inclusion for those most vulnerable and for those whom the gospel calls "the least of these." We affirm the rights of all people to equitable access to conditions that foster human life and the flourishing of that life.

We welcome the peaceful transition of power, the freedom of political expression we continue to hold dear, and the free observance of religious practices. We stand ready to support these rights, and those of others, and, by our covenant testimony, to build community and to resist evil non-violently.

