

July 31, 2015

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit  
4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201

Dear Kathe and members of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit,

Congratulations!

I'm delighted to inform you that First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit's application to renew its Welcoming Congregation status has been approved. Sincere congratulations on your ongoing commitment to ministry to LGBTQ people in the Metro Detroit area.



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 on August 11, 1997. Your application was among the most thorough and powerful that I've had the pleasure of reading. I was able to get a strong sense of not only the tasks you accomplished but the spirit and energy which you brought to it. Thank you for putting so much into summarizing and detailing your efforts. This document should go into First UU's archives so future generations will be able to look back and see the love and commitment that paved the way to the full welcome, inclusion, and equality LGBTQ people enjoy.

It's clear that First UU understands that becoming recognized as a Welcoming Congregation is a commitment rather than an end point. You've demonstrated this through the ongoing education you have provided, which has, hopefully, deepened your understandings of what inclusion means in 2015.

Your review of policies to assure that they contain inclusive language and your work in assuring that people can easily become involved in Welcoming Congregation activities show that your congregation is serious about the work it is doing.

I'm especially impressed with your fundraising and advocacy efforts to support marriage equality in Michigan and with your partnerships with community groups. As we've seen in the Supreme Court's rule about

marriage equality, efforts of this kind are so vitally important to the work of justice. Thank you for this.

Your young adult group's partnership with the Ruth Ellis Center made me laugh and proud at the same time. Sexual health education is such a strong need for queer youth and the young adults found a fun and creative way to engage them in this important conversation, and I'm sure helped build their own community at the same time. Selling the plans for these could be a great fundraiser for an OWL (Our While Lives) program!

I so appreciate your future plans, which clearly show that this excellent work will continue. I encourage you not to waste any time putting these plans into action. Congregations can lose energy after they achieve another milestone. The more work you can do to move forward now will make it clear that you are serious about continuing to make your congregation an ever more welcoming one. You have a vital voice in your community and you must make sure it stays alive and vibrant.

I hope you'll see the UUA as a resource for you—please be in touch any time if you have any questions or we can be of service or support. I encourage you to visit our website often; we are always adding new resources that will help you on your continuing journey.

You can expect to receive two newly designed Welcoming Congregation posters in the mail (these are currently in development so we'll get them to you as soon as we can – probably in September). 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,



Annette Marquis  
LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director

