

The Valley City Congregational United Church of Christ welcomes you into our family. What do we mean when we say we are a family?

- Does it mean we only want you if you conform to our expectations? This is true in some families but not our family.
- Does it mean we will not accept you because of your sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions? This is true in some families but not our family.
- Does it mean we only accept certain races, ethnic backgrounds, or nationalities? This is true in some families but not our family.
- Does it mean we only accept those of a certain financial status? This is true in some families but not our family.
- Does it mean we only accept able-bodied persons, free of physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities? This is true in some families but not our family.

This is what is true in our family:

- Our family accepts you for who you are, as you are, in this and any moment.
- Like other families, our family has values. We value the wisdom of other traditions, communal worship, and social justice action inclusive of the earth and all living things.
- As a beloved community of the people of God, we enjoy each other's company as we work, play, and study together to continue as followers of our Lord Jesus.
- We understand that families do not always agree despite their love and concern for one another. Hence, our family strives to settle differences of opinion with respect and understanding.

Welcome to our family.