

## LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation

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Unitarian Universalism affirms the [inherent worth and dignity of every person](#). It's not surprising, then, that UU congregations welcome all people, including [LGBTQ+ people](#). When in 1993, however, it became clear that some LGBTQ+ congregants around the country were not feeling accepted, many UUs were deeply concerned.

The Unitarian Universalist Association acted quickly and created a ["Welcoming Congregation" program](#). This program required congregations to meet certain programming criteria to be deemed "welcoming" and to engage deeply in exploration of how to be truly inclusive of all identities.

Birmingham Unitarian Church gladly did the work then to meet this standard. Unfortunately, 26 years later, Unitarian Universalism finds itself in the same situation. The LGBTQ+ community has changed a lot and we, as a faith, have failed to keep up. So the UUA has set new criteria and BUC is working to [renew our Welcoming Congregation status](#).

The renewal process requires doing the following over the course of one year: dedicating two services, six observances, and one educational module to LGBTQ+ issues, as well as offering financial support to one LGBTQ+ organization. In June, for example, we held a [service commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall uprising](#), and a portion of our plate collection was donated to the [Ruth Ellis Center](#).

BUC is deeply committed to the fight for LGBTQ+ justice and equity. We want all our LGBTQ+ visitors, members, and friends to feel welcome, valued, sacred, heard, and supported inside and outside our beloved community. Stay tuned for upcoming events related to this initiative and please contact Brianna Zamborsky ([briannazamborsky@gmail.com](mailto:briannazamborsky@gmail.com)) if you have questions or would like to get involved.