



Phoenix Community Church United Church of Christ

Our Understanding of Weddings / Covenant Unions

We affirm that we are called into loving relationships with one another, and that the decision to make a covenant of union or marriage with a committed partner is one such relationship.

We affirm that all of us are created in the divine image, and that all gender orientations are natural parts of creation.

We affirm that the decision of two people to live in covenant with one another is a holy thing, equally sacred for both same-gendered and other-gendered couples. We believe that God blesses all such unions made in good faith.

We affirm that a public celebration of a same-gender union is still, in this time, a revolutionary political act, and a step toward a more just and loving society. We affirm that a public celebration between opposite-gendered people is also revolutionary in this time when covenant – a commitment to another's well being – is not in favor.

We affirm that a covenant union or marriage is a communal event. Since the decision to live as family has legal, financial and social implications that may extend even beyond death, and since not only family and friends but all of society is affected when two people make such a commitment, we understand this partnership to be a communal, not just a personal, event. So we encourage couples to exchange vows before a community.

We affirm that it is the appropriate role of the church, as the community of faith, to share in such rituals when the couple understands their union to be a sacred relationship.

We affirm that covenant unions and marriages are spiritual events, and such rituals are celebrations not only of loving commitment, but also of the blessedness of life. Each rite of union is an acknowledgement of grace.

We affirm that we are called to embody the love, compassion and justice-making that prophets like Jesus embodied. We seek to share in services which exemplify the spirit of compassion, justice and prayer that we know in Jesus.

We affirm that covenant unions/marriages are lifelong commitments, which are to be entered into and honored in a holy, sacred manner.