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PROPOSED OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN SWAMPSCOTT, CONGREGATIONAL

We, The First Church in Swampscott, Congregational, declare ourselves to be an open and affirming church. We are called by God through Jesus Christ to follow the Great Commandment "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10: 27)

We joyfully welcome everyone of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, ages, races, and ethnicities, economic and social statuses, physical, mental and emotional abilities, faith backgrounds, marital standings and family structures into our community, to share in the full life, leadership and ministry of First Church.

We celebrate the wonderfully rich and diverse world God has created and embrace the joy and growth this diversity inspires. All who seek to know God are encouraged to join with us as we work to live out our mission in faith and love.

Faithfully proposed by the First Church ONA Team Gordon and Lorraine Angel, Holly Brauner, Peter Crowe, David Foye, Scott Heggie, Jim Kinchley, Natasha Medwedeff and Sharon Scofield, and Ian Holland, ex officio, on March 23, 2014