



San Antonio Mennonite Church Welcoming Statement

May 3, 2014

Welcoming Statement

We welcome all people in the name of God, who first welcomed us. Every person has worth as a unique creation made in the image of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We are an open and affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, immigration status, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status who seek to join us in following Jesus. Even as we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us, we strive to model a community of faith and spirit that works toward openness and understanding, offering justice, healing, and wholeness of life for all people.

More about Welcome at SAMC¹

San Antonio Mennonite Church welcomes all people in the name of God, who first welcomed us.

Partnering to establish God's kin-dom on earth, like Jesus, we welcome those who are not welcome in other places – people who are homeless, anyone with addictions, those with deep doubts or hard questions, persons who long for mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

[Seeking the peace of the city²](#), we welcome anyone who knows the [pain of violence](#). As a Mennonite congregation, we claim our heritage as a peace church and we welcome persons who are, were, or may become [members of the military](#).

Following Jesus, we claim [reconciliation as the center of our work](#). We seek [racial](#) and [economic justice](#) within our congregation and the larger community. We also seek nonviolent alternatives to resolving conflict.

Affirming and celebrating all loving and committed relationships, we mourn the history of the institutional church, which has frequently condemned and excluded persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered, and which has condoned such discrimination by its silence. We commit ourselves to the work of ending such oppression and discrimination.

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We recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

¹ As a Mennonite congregation rooted in San Antonio, SAMC has a specific calling within its geographical context. More about Welcome at SAMC attempts to speak to this calling as well as the culture of this congregation. The hyperlinks embedded in this statement are reminders that our welcome is ongoing rather than a momentary declaration; the statement will need to be reviewed and updated occasionally.

² Jeremiah 29:7. For decades, this scripture has been imprinted upon San Antonio Mennonite Church, including our sign along South St. Mary's St. and worship bulletins.