

Supporting the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion

SPONSOR: The Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre

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RESOLVED, That the 190th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont join with 121 towns and cities throughout the State of Vermont, and over 25 supporting organizations, to adopt the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Convention urge the adoption by all Vermont towns of the Declaration of Inclusion, which reads:

The Town of _____ condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.

As a town, we formally condemn all discrimination in all of its forms, commit to fair and equal treatment of everyone in our community, and will strive to ensure all of our actions, policies, and operating procedures reflect this commitment.

The Town of _____ has and will continue to be a place where individuals can live freely and express their opinions.

EXPLANATION

Distressed by recent catastrophic events unfolding across the country relating to human rights, justice, and equality, Bob Harnish, a long-time resident of Pittsford, decided to do something. His concern led him to Al Wakefield, a former businessman in the Rutland area, who shared similar distress and felt a need to do something “hands-on.”

The intent of the Declaration of Inclusion is to indicate and reinforce the message to all visitors, residents, and those thinking about or planning to come and stay, that:

- Vermont is a welcoming community
- Vermont invites all to bring their families and friends, as well as their talents and skills
- Vermont is a community of people who will treat them fairly, provide encouragement and support for their interests
- Vermont will bring the full resources of the state, cities, and towns to ensure their well-being and security

For more information, please visit the website:

<https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org/>