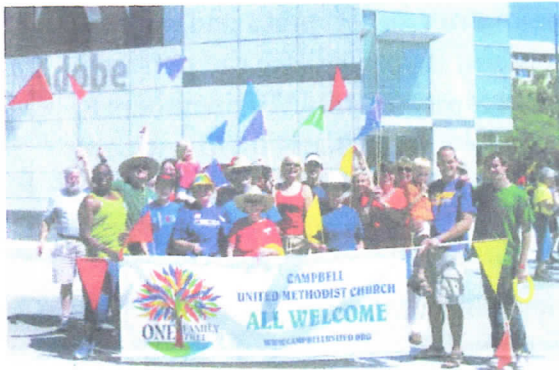


the following week to include those who could not attend the meeting. Over 300 votes were cast and the statement was passed by 87%.

Since that time, a rainbow insignia has decorated the church building. The church experienced criticism for this but it has remained committed to the inclusion of the LGBT community. Other activities include participation in Gay Pride parades and joining an ecumenical candlelight vigil against Prop. 8, an anti-gay state legislation.

Integral in the leadership and guidance of this step of faith were Gertrude Welch, Margaret Powell, Jean Lowe, Mac Gaddis, Jan Grodeon and many others. Their bold and persistent efforts created the foundation for our support for this community which is continually enriching the life of our church.



Reconciling Congregation Statement of the First United Methodist Church of Campbell

Believing that all persons are recipients of God's grace, the First United Methodist Church of Campbell makes these affirmations:

- that the teachings of Jesus call us to move beyond judgmental attitudes and actions, which are created out of hatred and fear, to those of love and justice;
- that we renew our commitment to one another and this community of faith

- to be faithful witnesses of the Gospel;
- that we respect the dignity of individuals and rejoice in the gifts and graces of all persons. All we be included in the body of the church regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background, physical or mental challenges or conditions, family status or financial circumstances;
- that we openly accept and welcome the participation of lesbian and gay persons in our midst;

Therefore, we declare ourselves to be a Reconciling Congregation inviting all to join with us in being vibrantly alive for Christ and the world.

INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

Franklin Bondonno, Lea Adams

We all remember the events of September 11, 2001. On the first anniversary of 9/11, Pastors Dick and Bobbie Corson invited Muslims to a meeting in the Fireside Room to talk to us about living in American before, and after, 9/11. They shared the stories of their difficulties and situations. The anniversary meetings continued for a few more years.

Later, under the leadership of Pastor Alan Jones, CUMC actively embraced the Muslim community. The church announced that it would support the Muslim community and serve as a site of security and refuge. To underscore this commitment, CUMC started a series of 9/11 interfaith dinners, which brought together members of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and other faith communities to celebrate our common humanity each September 11th. The dinners were marked by joint prayers and dialogue. Attendance at the first dinner

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

For many years, CUMC has financially supported Methodist missionaries in the field. We are currently in a Covenant Relationship with the Reverend Joseph C. Chan and his wife, Marilyn Chan, missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries, serving in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, since 1998. Reverend Chan is a District Superintendent, working with local pastors and churches, and helping to build new churches. Marilyn Chan is the women and music coordinator of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. Her responsibilities relate to a group of "livelihood projects", including pig farming, silk weaving, bamboo basket weaving, vegetable farming, sewing, fish farming, and hammock making. The Chans have made a number of visits to CUMC and described their work in Cambodia.

Before her death, long time member Edna Shum made several trips to Cambodia, taking donations to help the Chan's ministry. In honor of Evelyn Buck's 100th birthday, our members donated funds to be used for the purchase of hymnals for Cambodia. CUMC continues to support the long held Methodist commitment to mission work around the globe.

RECONCILING CONGREGATION

Helen Hayashi, Susan Sargent

One of the steps of faith taken by the Church and Society Commission was to join the national United Methodist Reconciling Congregation movement to welcome persons regardless of sexual orientation. Founded in 1984, this network countered the discriminating policies of this denomination toward the lesbian and gay community.

Campbell UMC embarked on this journey in 1984 in response to two courageous gay members of longtime church families, Mary Gaddis and Duncan Campbell. Mary openly confronted friends, work associates, and church leadership with her personal message of discrimination. Duncan Campbell dealt with rejection and fear as well as a debilitating illness, dying of AIDS in 1996, having written his experiences in the book "Candle in the Night". It was their spirit that permeated and drove the process.

A thoughtful plan was created which included information sharing and education of the Administrative Board and commissions, inclusive conversations and involvement of outside organizations. In the spring of 1994, the Commission on Church and Society presented the six session study, "Heterosexism". In the fall, they presented an evening with the editor of "Open Hands", a quarterly journal published by the Reconciling Congregations Program. Events during 1995 included showing the film "Straight from the Heart", and presenting a concert featuring Duncan Campbell. The Reverend Bob Hawthorne, retired Methodist minister and father of a lesbian daughter, preached a Sunday morning sermon "New Light on the Good Samaritan". The Commission wrote the Reconciling Congregation Statement for our church that year. Events in 1996 and 1997 included speakers, presentation of the play "Out of the Silence", and Sunday morning Koffee Klatches and a literature table.

On October 19, 1997, a forum and congregational meeting were held. A vote by printed ballot was taken. The time for voting was extended through