



# Natick Bulletin & Tab

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## Eliot Church becomes an Open and Affirming congregation

Friday, February 13, 2009

**O**n December 14, 2008, at a special meeting of the congregation, the members of the Eliot Church unanimously voted for the church to become an Open and Affirming congregation.

The vote culminates a two-year process of reflection and discussion within the church membership. Open and Affirming Committee member Randy Glidden was delighted with the outcome. "Members of our church come together from many backgrounds," he said. "And this vote reaffirms our belief in the dignity and equality of all people."



PHOTO BY TOD DIMMICK

Randy Glidden, Sue Kennedy, Parish Committee moderator Fred Pasche, and Donna Tetreault stand next to the Eliot Open and Affirming Statement.

The Eliot Church Open and Affirming Statement reads:

*We, the members of The Eliot Church of South Natick, long committed to the belief in the dignity and equality of all people, do hereby declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation. As such we welcome into our church community people of every family structure, sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression. We also welcome people of all ages, genders,*

*abilities, races, nationalities, faith backgrounds, and of every economic and social status. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this church. We invite all people to attend our services and to actively participate in the life and vision of our Church, as expressed in our Covenant: In the love of Truth and in the Spirit of Jesus, we unite for the worship of God and the service of All.*

The historic Eliot Church is a community church in the Christian tradition, with ties to both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. Visitors of all faiths are always welcome. Services, including Sunday School, are held at 10:00 AM. For further information go to [www.theeliotchurch.com](http://www.theeliotchurch.com) or call (508) 653-2244