

Affirming to me means being outwardly welcoming to everyone and having everyone be aware of our intentions.

I personally have always felt welcome at AUC, even when I was able to bring Emma, my daughter who has severe cerebral palsy. She is very obviously different, but mostly we experienced care and concern. If people in any community appeared to avoid us, it didn't particularly bother me because I don't believe she's capable of having her feelings hurt.

However, people with hidden or less obvious differences are COMPLETELY capable of feeling hurt if they are excluded from church life (or any aspect of life).

One of my darling daughters happens to be LGBTQ+, and we have welcomed her dear wife into our family!

A person's gender and/or economic circumstances or body shape or size or culture is such a small part of their being and shouldn't matter in terms of how one is treated, but until acceptance is more widespread, I believe we all need to be intentional in our inclusiveness, and I think AUC is a great place to start!

Debby Schieck

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