

UNITED CHURCH HOMES: OUR INTENTIONALITY IN MISSION

United Church Homes, a leading provider of senior living and affordable housing for older adults, is unapologetically inclusive. Our mission – to transform aging – echoes our commitment to **a just world for all**. We work to ensure older adults can live in community, overcoming the ails of social isolation, receiving the supportive care they deserve while being treated with dignity as they age. It's simply the right thing to do. Regardless of where a person is on their life journey, we welcome and affirm them in our communities. United Church Homes spent the last two decades of its first hundred years working toward our current Open and Affirming status. The journey continues into our second century of service.

BENDING THE CURVE OF HISTORY TOWARD JUSTICE FOR ALL

The core tenets of our mission reflect Jesus' teachings of love, compassion and peace for all people.

In 2012, the UCH Board of Directors voted unanimously for the organization to become Open and Affirming, a designation within the United Church of Christ. The vote came from members' theological understanding of caring for the whole person, but they also saw this as a justice issue. Often, LGBT individuals do not have the same rights or access to healthcare, housing or employment as heterosexual and cisgender people. United Church Homes intentionally confronts these disparities and other forms of discrimination.

At United Church Homes, everyone is welcome!

In 2020, there are 2.7 million LGBT older adults in the U.S. — expected to double by 2030.*

LGBT older adults are five times less likely to seek medical care or social services due to decades of stigma — and even harassment — from providers.

48% of LGB couples experience adverse treatment when seeking senior housing; trans individuals experience adverse treatment at even higher rates.

Combined perceived or actual homophobia and transphobia hurt the very people needing social services the most.

*Caregiving in the LGBT Community, SAGE, 2017; The Facts on LGBT Aging, SAGE, 2018

JOURNEY TO AN AFFIRMING CULTURE IN SE



SERVICE TO LGBT OLDER ADULTS: A TIMELINE

2016

UCH invites national advocacy organization SAGE, serving LGBT older adults since 1978, to participate in its centennial celebration by offering a workshop on LGBT aging

2017

UCH begins SAGECare training certification process for community staff

2017

UCH signs Ohio Business Competes commitment and begins contributing annual testimony in support of the Ohio Fairness Act

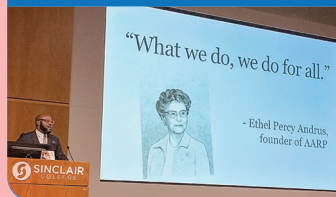


2018

UCH co-sponsors the Giving Voice to LGBT Older Adults Conference, a one-day event in Columbus, Ohio, with North Congregational UCC and the Central Southeast Ohio Association



UCH launches Miami Valley LGBT Horizons of Aging Summit in Dayton, Ohio, with local partners



2019

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of UCH's Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, joins advisory committee for Long-Term Care Equality Index, a project of SAGE and HRC



2019-20

2020

UCH signs the Commitment to Caring pledge in anticipation of participating in the LEI survey



In 2017, United Church Homes first earned platinum certification in SAGECare cultural competency training for those working with LGBT older adults. Over 80 percent of 1,500 staff members voluntarily participated in the training the first time it was offered

in partnership with SAGE. Central office staff and all retirement communities have been recertified each year since, and staff from many affordable housing communities have also completed the training.

As a participant in the Long-Term Equality Index by SAGE and the Human Rights Campaign, we are committed to becoming a national leader in service to and advocacy for LGBT older adults.

Building communities is a foundational element of everything we do at United Church Homes. We recognize the adverse differential treatment that LGBT people face in this country.

What would you do if you were an LGBT older adult, and you had to move into a senior living community?

Would you be encouraged to live as your authentic self?

That's our dream at United Church Homes for residents and all older adults.

Join us in the fight for equality!

Learn more about United Church Homes by visiting unitedchurchhomes.org or abundantaging.org.

Half the LGBT population lives in states with no laws protecting them from housing discrimination.

34% of LGBT older adults fear having to go back into the closet when seeking senior housing.

LGBT people are more likely than heterosexual people to experience negative physical and mental health challenges.



UNITED CHURCH HOMES®
Celebrating the Spirit®

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