



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION OF FREDERICK
Spirituality · Community · Justice

10 February 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick enthusiastically supports SB 0486 and HB 572.

Our congregation has had gender inclusive bathroom signs since 2019. This change is in line with our religious values, and our practices as a Welcoming Congregation for people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Gender Nonbinary. We are part of the larger Unitarian Universalist Association, which holds that “Being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion, and creating spaces that honor every part of our identities, backgrounds, and experiences.”

Gender neutral bathrooms are just bathrooms. Gendered bathrooms, however, are excluding, presenting the options for people to use a bathroom that doesn’t conform to their identity, face physical and emotional harassment, deep discomfort, even violence or arrest for being in the ‘wrong’ bathroom. We call on Maryland to pass SB 0486 and HB 572.

Signage that shows what is in the bathroom is helpful for transgender people, gender non-binary people, gender queer people, the disability community, and the elderly community who need assistance. This change makes our congregation welcoming and comfortable for all. Congregants desired this change, the Board of Trustees supported the change, and it has helped us live into our values.

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