

Pride - Full D&C Letter to the Editor.

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Some churches teach that pride is a sin, but at First Baptist Church of Rochester my summer has been full of pride. You see, back in July a portion of our congregation marched together with sibling Baptist congregations in the Rochester Pride Parade. A few years ago the church decided to become what we Baptists call, "Welcoming and Affirming." That is, a confession that we are welcoming of all people, but arises out of a need to make particular mention of our welcome and affirmation for LGBTQIA persons. We affirm these identities as God-given and even as made in the image of God. On Sunday, August 13, a pair of protestors greeted us outside the sanctuary after worship. Their words were hateful and they clearly wanted to get a rise out of us. I confess I was nervous when many of our congregants approached them. I knew they were angry, and hurt, and only a day after protestors of another sort caused much bodily harm and death in Charlottesville, we were all a bit afraid. To my delight the fine people of First Baptist did not return the hostile rhetoric, but instead offered a welcoming hand and invited our protestors in for conversation. Do you know what I felt then? I felt pride.