

Year	Event
1985	The UCC's General Synod*** urges UCC congregations to "Declare Themselves Open and Affirming." The Coalition accepts responsibility to fund, manage and grow the Open and Affirming ("ONA") movement.
1987	The Coalition certifies the first 15 ONA congregations.
1988	The results of a joint report conducted by the DoD and the Defense Personnel Security Research in Education Center reinforce the findings of a 1957 report claiming that gay and lesbian individuals enlisted in the armed forces pose no significant risk to security (which had previously been the rationale for barring gay individuals from enlisting in the military).
1989	General Synod adopts a strong resolution "Deploring Violence against Lesbian and Gay People."
1992	First New Hampshire UCC church becomes ONA (Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ)
1993	General Synod calls for an end to the prohibition of military service by gay and lesbian citizens.
1993	President Bill Clinton signs the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, barring openly gay and lesbian American citizens from military service—while prohibiting harassment of all "closeted" military service members.
1999	General Synod approves a resolution on "Prevention of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Suicide."
2000	By the end of 2000, 8 total NH UCC churches had become ONA
2003	General Synod votes for a resolution "Affirming the Participation and Ministry of Transgender People within the United Church of Christ and Supporting their Civil and Human Rights."
2005	Resolution affirming "Equal Marriage Rights for All" is adopted by General Synod.
2007	New Hampshire civil unions bill signed into law (went into effect on Jan. 1, 2008) that gave partners in same-sex civil unions the same "rights, responsibilities and obligations" as heterosexual married couples.
2009	New Hampshire became the sixth U.S. state to authorize gay marriage (law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2010)
2010	Our church votes to allow same-sex marriages in the church
2010	By the end of 2010, 21 total NH UCC churches had become ONA
2011	President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is repealed by the Obama administration.
2011	General Synod affirms the adoption rights of LGBT couples and urges congregations to provide sanctuary for LGBT refugees seeking sanctuary in the U.S.
2012	The UCC welcomes ONA congregation #1,000. In November, Open and Affirming churches play a key role in victories for marriage equality in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington state.

2014	The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns changes its name to the "Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ," reflecting the Coalition's continued responsibility for the churchwide ONA movement and reaffirming its goal to lead every congregation in the UCC towards an ONA covenant.
2015	United States Supreme Court requires all states to grant same-sex marriages and recognize same sex marriages granted in other states (Obergefell v Holdges)
2015	Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announces that the Military Equal Opportunity policy has been modified to include gay and lesbian service members and issues a directive, which says that no service member can be discharged on the grounds of gender identity without approval from the Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.
2016	The Senate confirms Eric Fanning as secretary of the Army, making him the first openly gay secretary of a U.S. military branch.
2017	President Trump announces that "the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military," citing potential increases in medical costs as the driving factor behind the decision. Two federal judge rules against Trump's transgender military ban. The Department of Justice continues to appeal the ruling.
2018	Trump rescinds his previous policy in favor of a new policy denoting that "transgender persons with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria—individuals who the policies state may require substantial medical treatment, including medications and surgery—are disqualified from military service except under certain limited circumstances."
2020	By the end of 2020, 56 total NH UCC churches had become ONA
2021	First openly gay Cabinet member to be confirmed by US Senate (Pet Buttigieg, US Secretary of Transportation)
2021	First openly transgender federal official to win Senate confirmation (Lisa Murkowski, Asst Secretary of Health)
2021	The Widening Our Vision (WOV) team is initiated with the goal of reviewing whether our church should become Open and Affirming (ONA) and what it would take to do so.

General Synod is a biennial gathering of representatives of conferences chosen from local churches of the United Church of Christ. Resolutions and pronouncements are brought for consideration to General Synod by groups and members of the church. When passed, resolutions and pronouncements become the witness of the General Synod and are commended to all members of the United Church of Christ for consideration. They have significant influence on the mission and ministry of instrumentalities and other national bodies of the denomination and provide a significant teaching role for the church in all settings.