

Reconciling Community of Faith

October 2019 submitted by Shirley Cheal

Gatherings are held: Every first Monday of the month in the library at 4pm. Open to all

Purpose of the Commission/Committee/Group:

- To become more welcoming to LGBTQ folks and their families
- Support allies and encourage new allies
- Educate and inform group on current issues
- Create a strong and inclusive Community of Faith.

How does the purpose help fulfill the mission of FUMC?

By putting an emphasis, and putting into action our Oneness in Christ Statement.

What are your activities/ programs/ ministries/ accomplishments for the last year?

- Increasing the awareness that we are a Reconciling Congregation at FUMC
- NEW: Church Council reaffirmed our church to be a Reconciling Congregation after UMC conference decision in February.
- Education through short movie clips, use of YouTube and Ted Talks
- Participation in The Sonoma County Pride Parade. Year 2. NEW: Walked with other Sonoma County Churches
- NEW: Created a presence on the square during the parade- received 3rd place for the booth.
- Speaking out and supporting the issues of our group both with FUMC folks, friends, family and the community. Members regularly share their accomplishments in this area.
- Prominent position of Oneness in Christ Statement and words 'FUMC a Reconciling Congregation' on Sunday Bulletin.
- NEW: Welcoming statement in church services to include words welcoming LGBTQ+ community.
- Financial support to Reconciling Ministries Network.
- NEW: Financial gift to Positive Images (local youth LGBTQ+ support group) and PFLAG
- NEW: Invited Positive Images Youth to participate in a Gallery 1551 art show. April-July
- NEW: Pastor Lori and Pastor Lindsey provided update after conference decision.
- NEW: Meetings with other Sonoma County churches/ pastors to help facilitate a way forward after UMC decision

What are your goals and plans for the next year?

- Support community outreach to LGBTQ community through attendance and missional giving.
- Greater visibility through FUMC website home page.
- Participate in Sonoma County Pride Parade- year 3. Go for first place.
- Celebrate Pride Month in June with churchwide activities.
- Encourage the use of the FUMC Oneness in Christ Statement and inclusive language in all committees and groups.
- Continue to support Reconciling Ministries goals for full acceptance of all people regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. Support the removal of all exclusionary language in the Book of Discipline.
- Updates from pastors after conference decision.