

Open AND AFFIRMING February Meeting Notes---Feb. 12, 2018

The Task Force has made a covenant with the congregation to listen for where God's Spirit is inviting our community to more deeply welcome sexual and gender minorities into the life of our church, respect and encourage the congregation to share its opinions and thoughts about becoming an ONA congregation within the UCC, and build consensus among our membership of how we would like to reflect God's radical hospitality to all humanity. Likewise, the congregation pledged support to the Task Force, and the ONA process, in a spirit of grace.

- February Meeting attendees: Carol Blakeslee-Collin, Harrison Caner, Susy Doolittle, Paul Martin, Barbara Merle-Smith, Debby Rice, Hope Stone
 - Ex officio: Pastor John
 - Absent, with regrets: Karen Glass, Shawn LaMarche, Jim Marlatt

Discussion Item Highlights and Next Steps:

- Recent Activities discussed briefly:
 - Becoming Nicole was positively reviewed by one of the book groups in town. Feedback is that this book helped the readers better understand all of the issues facing an individual and her family as she transitioned.
 - Plans are now in place for the following events:
 - John Sampson is leading a Lenten Bible Study (series of six weeks)
 - March 16 LGBTQI panel is set: Rev. Susie Allen, Kevin Guille, Susy Doolittle, Fritz Sabbow are the current list of participants. This will be open to the Church and the community.
 - Communications continue to be a challenge. The Task Force is ramping up the communications.
 - **(new)** Task Force will push out minutes to the Church via email.
 - (on going) A bulletin Board is now in the Van Sanfoort room.
 - (on going) The ONA Tab on the Church website will be continually updated.
 - **(new)** an Update will be provided during next week's church service.
 - **(new)** A couple of Task Force members will facilitate an update and discussion for those interested after the church service

(upcoming---May) Musician Billy Jo Valentine, a faith based singer/songwriter is coming to KV to share his music and story.
- **Focus of the February meeting:** Task Force began a discussion on what an ONA Church would be like with regards to Baptism, Communion, Marriage and Funerals. We are interested in being very clear that if we support becoming an ONA church, this will mean that all are welcome as we embrace everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference (for example, marriage of two a gay couple, baptism of a transgender child, funeral of a bisexual member). The group is exploring and studying carefully how we feel about this.
 - The Task Force is actively listening to members of our congregation as we pursue this discussion.