

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL of FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA ROSA, CA

August 1st 2016

Name of Commission/Committee/Group:

Reconciling Community of Faith

Members of the Commission/Committee/Group: [chair, members, staff]

Shirley Cheal (chair) regular gathering 10-15 people, email list 60 approx.

Meetings are held (when, where):

Every first Monday of the month in the library at 4pm.

Purpose of the Commission/Committee/Group: (If your group relates to one of the six areas of SHIFT, note that.) SHIFT areas 1, 2 and 4

- Find more ways to become more welcoming to LGBT folks and their families
- Support allies and encourage new allies
- Support the spiritual growth of the above persons
- 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?

- Becoming a Reconciling Congregation
- Hosting the movie 'An Act of Love' for FUMC and community
- Increasing the awareness that we are a Reconciling Congregation at FUMC and the community (PFLAG meetings etc.)
- Education through short movie clips, use of YouTube and Ted Talks
- Expanding our mission to include other areas of social justice (homelessness, race etc.)
- Greater visibility through signs, website etc.
- 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.

What are your goals and plans for the next year?

- Continue to expand our mission to include other areas of social justice (homelessness, race etc.)
- Greater visibility through signs, website, church stationary, bulletins, handouts etc.
- Visit Glide Methodist Church
- Guerneville Pride Parade - attend and participate
- Encourage more inclusive language on an every time basis to be used by pastors and those who welcome from the pulpit. e.g. by using words from our Oneness Statement or inviting 'those who have been excluded in past' or declaring we are a 'Reconciling Congregation' and what that means.

What goals or benchmarks have you set to measure success/effectiveness?

- Seeing the above goals met.

Respectfully submitted, [name] Shirley Cheal