

UUAA Interweave 2019-20 Annual Report

We are a spiritual home to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) people, their families and allies in order to nurture social connections, educate ourselves and others, and advocate for social justice. Interweave provides a welcoming presence and gathering place for LGBTQIA people, their families and allies. Our purpose is transformation within ourselves, the Congregation, and the greater community.

In fall 2019, the Social Justice Council granted funds jointly to Interweave and Welcome Ministries to purchase the online video series entitled “Transgender Inclusion in Congregations.” This six-part course was developed by Mykal Slack & Zr. Alex Kapitan of the Transforming Hearts Collective. It is geared towards congregations that want to deepen their understanding of gender and transgender identities and that are seeking to create a truly trans-affirming faith community. During spring 2020, a group of 13 UUAA congregants met both in person and then online to watch the video series together and to discuss the many thought-provoking questions that arose.

We discussed plans for how UUAA might become more welcoming to trans people through building relationship and through culture shift. We are continuing our discussion of becoming a more welcoming congregation to trans individuals by beginning a book club. We feel the work we are doing promotes many of our UU principles such as the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, and acceptance of one another as we grow spiritually in our congregation. We now plan to broaden the congregants who view and discuss the video series by offering the online course again soon.

In addition to the video series, the Interweave table has been set up during social hour as a welcoming place for those seeking relationship and support.