

# **Open and Affirming Team (OnA), United Church of Christ in New Brighton**

## **Guidelines, Job Descriptions and Relationships**

### **Purpose/Responsibilities**

1. To provide timely information to our congregation about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (i.e., all orientations and identities) (LGBTQ+) issues, opportunities, and events within our congregation, the wider church, and the wider LGBTQ+ community.

2. To encourage our congregation to make our church known in the LGBTQ+ community.

3. To provide witness to the wider faith community of our values as an Open and Affirming (OnA) congregation.

4. To encourage participation in LGBTQ+-related events such as PRIDE, Black PRIDE, National Coming Out Day, National Transgender Day of Remembrance, various LGBTQ+ arts events, and Conference and/or national UCC-sponsored OnA events.

5. To provide leadership in the on-going learning of our congregation about LGBTQ+ matters.

6. To discuss and engage in public policy advocacy related to LGBTQ+ issues.

### **Relationships/Membership**

The OnA Team is related to the congregation's Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SOJO) and as such, reports to SOJO at its monthly meetings. The Team has the option of being directly represented on the Church Council or having the SOJO Council representative bring matters to the Council as needed. This decision should be made in May at the beginning of each new Council year.

The Team's budget is a line item in SOJO's budget, although the Team should provide to SOJO a request annually when asked. If the Team wishes to undertake a project that exceeds its budget, the Team should consult with SOJO to see if there are extra-budget funds available.

The Team members serve until they need a break. Four to six members is a desirable size. The Team will assist the congregation's Membership and Engagement Committee when new members are needed. Names of potential new members will be brought to the Council for affirmation.

The Team will be the "point-of-contact" for the Conference OnA ministries, the national UCC OnA Coalition, and OnA Teams/Committees of other congregations.

## **Job Descriptions**

1. Chair: call meetings, prepare agendas, report to SOJO (or delegate this), monitor Team purposes, objectives, and on-going program decisions, and ensure that someone monitors budget and expenditures.

2. Secretary: take good minutes and distribute them to the Team and the Church Office.

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