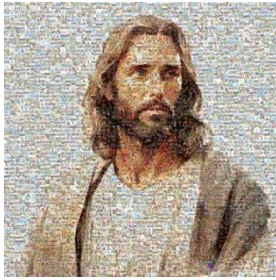


CELEBRATE:



One Body, Many Parts

### **CTK Believe Out Loud Education Series**

Session 6: How will CTK implement being a Welcoming Community and prepare for possible external threats?

*Jesus said, ‘ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’*  
(Matthew 22:37-40)

### **Welcoming and Safety**

#### **Brief Bio:**

Brianna Titone

In our One on One interviews, a few members voiced concern over the security and safety of our community if we display overt signs of welcome to the LGBTQIA2+ community.

- Safety (Mike, Phil, and Bob)
  - Facility preparations and Grant Application
  - Monitoring threats – keeping our eyes open and adding ourselves to local monitoring lists for security updates
  - Community trainings

What might we expect in becoming a Welcoming Community and how do we make this happen?

- Suggestions from Rev Shaneequa Brokenleg on being a Welcoming Community
  - Remember to come at this from remembering intersectionality.
  - Identify and celebrate in liturgy and music important dates for the queer community (we may also explore having in mind important dates for various ethnic communities)
  - Continued education opportunities to explore, understand, and respond to societal threats to queer individuals
- State Rep. Brianna Titone speaks on what she looks for in terms of welcome and safety when visiting a place for the first time
- Panel Discussion:
  - Austin, John, Patrice, and Brianna
    - Appropriate hospitality when anyone walks into CTK for the first time (greeters, Vestry, all)
    - Good questions to exhibit interest without “being nosey.” (genuine curiosity and friendliness)
    - Bathrooms?

- Wrap up and next steps
  - A take-away from each of the sessions: [Daniel offered to help with this if you'd like]
    - Session 1:
    - Session 2:
    - Session 3:
    - Session 4:
    - Session 5:
    - Session 6:
  - What happens in the Believe Out Loud Process next?
    - Leadership Team will meet to debrief. Folks are welcome to communicate their thoughts with any of us
    - A formal opportunity will be given for community members to offer their thoughts about becoming a Welcoming Community
    - The Vestry will take information from the community input and the Leadership Team to decide.
    - The decision will be communicated to the CTK community and follow up will be considered.
- Gospel call / Beloved Community
  - Dr. Martin Luther King's Beloved Community was not devoid of interpersonal, group or international conflict. Instead he recognized that conflict was an inevitable part of human experience. But he believed that conflicts could be resolved peacefully and adversaries could be reconciled through a mutual, determined commitment to nonviolence. No conflict, he believed, need erupt in violence. And all conflicts in The Beloved Community should end with reconciliation of adversaries cooperating together in a spirit of friendship and goodwill.

### **Study Questions:**

- What can we do at CTK to help people feel truly welcome regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race, level of ability, neuro-diversity, etc.?
- What are some things we could provide in/outside our facilities to help people know this is a welcoming space?
- What are some things we can do to ensure the safety of our CTK family—both present and future?
- What else do you, personally, want to learn about LGBTQIA2+ people?

### **Additional Resources:**

- <https://pflag.org/resource/s4e-guide-to-being-a-straight-ally/>