

LGBTQA DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2020

The Meeting was called to order via ZOOM at 6:34 PM.

Attendees were: Shawn Williams, President; Crystal Czyscon, Vice-President; Tim Dues, Secretary; Willie Middleton and Wesley Wright, Board Members; and Ron Trees, Todd Truax, Marybeth Bore, Will Burke, Kari Lerner, Lexa Donnally, Arlene Feddo, Eddie Stahl, Mike Bonacolta, Sara Goldstein, Melissa Roberts, Laura Griffin, Troy Adams and Guest Speaker, Rev C.J McGregor.

President's Report and Comments:

Shawn opened the meeting discussing the format for this evening's meeting. The meeting will be a dialogue and a discussion of the year's activities and successes/shortcomings. As a beginning there will be introductions, introducing yourself and identifying your "pronouns". Additionally, describe actions you took during the election and things that could be done better.

Introductions: All the attendees (approx. 20) introduced themselves and went through pronouns and activities they participated in. Most attendees wanted the caucus to move forward building coalitions with other Democratic Party caucuses and finding ways to increase our memberships. Shawn mentioned a two-year perspective, then a four-year plan. Todd Truax mentioned that we should have goals and objectives for each month, year and 2,4-year plans.

Introductions took about 35-40 minutes. Lots of comments and different perspectives.

Shawn then introduced the meeting's guest speaker.

Guest Speaker:

Rev. C. J. McGregor, Minister, All Faiths Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev CJ, as he is called, opened the discussion talking about Justice, Equity and Compassion. Attributes everyone should strive to include in all we do. He has been following the LGBTQA+ Democratic Caucus for several months. It is important that we always display Dignity and Acceptance for their friends, family, employees and yes, even political party supporters. Members of the church's congregation have the power of Unity but in the time of Covid-19 many things have stalled. Rev CJ said the church in itself has no political or financial power but it does have significant influence. He did want the church to be more involved, but the pandemic cut that short this year. LGBTQA+ persons can be supported if they have Faith.

The UU Church and its congregation are involved. They're supporting climate change (Dunbar Sludge Issue), homelessness (Hearts for the Homeless), street violence (Child Care), hunger (Food Banks) plus

Planned Parenthood and the Alliance for the Arts. The congregation donations are given to community organizations. Their web page is

www.allfaithsuumc.org

Questions were asked and answered. Discussion was concluded. Shawn thanked Rev CJ for his presentation. Attendees applauded him and his congregation.

A discussion was held on Calling People In vs Calling People Out. The UU Church can help with the training us. It's about Ouch vs Oops!

Rev CJ can be reached at revcjmcgregor@gmail.com

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Additional Issues

The Caucus needs supports for the Lee County School Board (LCSB) and the recommendations from their Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee (EDAC) for consideration. The LCSB did pass a resolution making October the LGBT History Month. Celebrations will be held in Oct 2021

The EDAC and School Board meetings are available on You Tube.

Future Actions:

Delegations for Legislative Actions, Dec 16, 2020, FSW Rm 177

Lee County School Board, January 2021 Meeting

Lobby Days, Virtual, February 2021.

For the Good of the Order

There were no additional comments. Happy Holidays!!

Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting, with a second the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by: Tim Dues, Secretary