

Welcoming Congregation Committee meeting December 2, 2018

Attendance: Charles, Dorothy, and Dave

We focused our meeting on the five-minute Sunday service Welcoming Congregation segments.

We decided to begin adding these WC segments beginning with Mary Jo Schnell's service on January 13, 2019.

Charles agreed to lead the first five-minute segment in which he will explain why BUUF is going through the process of recertifying our designation as a Welcoming Congregation – what we are doing to maintain BUUF as a Welcoming Congregation and why it's of importance to us. Many members of our current fellowship were not here when BUUF decided to become a Welcoming Congregation and we view being a WC as an ongoing process.

Charles has information from Steven Jukuri's talks on how to be welcoming, which we can break down into various five-minute segments. We discussed other possibilities including showing segments from various DVDs on LGBTQ+ issues, including one in which transgender students from Michigan State University discuss issues that concern them that everyone should know.

Dorothy wants to address the matter that we all need to be educated on *not* making assumptions based on our traditional, cultural, and/or religious upbringing. Dave wants to focus on confronting the conservative backlash to the LGBTQ+ movement. We decided that anyone who wants to be a part of our WC renewal effort could also present a five-minute segment approved by our committee. And we're considering contacting high school Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) to see if any high school students are interested in educating us as to their current state of affairs.

The UUA's Welcoming Congregations "Renewal" Program contains five practices (formerly "pillars," as in Islam): Become a Welcoming Congregation, Welcoming Worship Services, Welcoming Days of Observance, Welcoming Congregation Module, and Support a Welcoming Project. BUUF is a Welcoming Congregation and supports many welcoming projects. We plan to be sure to include Welcoming Worship Services (beginning in 2019 with Mary Jo's service) and Days of Observance on an annual basis. Dave thought the WC Module was a podcast that could be shared with the fellowship, while Charles thought we'd have to "tune in" at the time of the broadcast. Dave said he'd look into it. (Subsequent to the meeting Dave could not find any information on the UUA website and emailed lgbtq@uua.org for assistance, and he has not yet received a response.)

We did not set a date for our next meeting, but we will communicate via email to set a date before the end of December to plan for Mary Jo's service on January 13.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Sarra