

Spiritual Institute Meeting Minutes
June 1 2010

Spiritual Institute Mission: to create safe opportunities for LGBT youth to do their spiritual work

NEXT MEETING: July 14th, 2010. 6:30 PM, 474 Broad Street, Meriden, CT

Present: John Istvan, Darrick Jackson, Robin McHaelen, Molly Nolan

Break into Teams to address primary objectives: We postponed decisions until the fall when the entire team is back from summer hiatus.

- Create a set of workshops that can be incorporated in some way into the annual true colors conference without violating the church/state separation:
 - Current Ideas include:
 - What does it mean to be spiritual in a "queer" context?
 - An historical perspective on Biblical language regarding same sex relationships
 - Spirituality in Recovery
 - When beliefs collide: integrating tenants of non-violent communication into the faith conversation
- Identify, prioritize and produce some number of activities during the year in support of the mission. What those activities should/could look like will be the focus of the next meeting: Some ideas that came up included:
 - Spiritual Speed Dating or a Spiritual Fair (inviting GSAs, youth in the mentoring program, youth in area faith group programs, etc.)
 - Holding another Radically Inclusive Spiritual Revival
 - Hosting Peterson Toscano's work about Transgender folks in the Bible with a discussion

Who is missing from the table?

Jewish communities of Faith (including Beth El in New Haven. Robin to reach out to ADL to see what kind of contacts they may have)

Hartford Seminary, Ingrid Matson and Jan Gregory(Darrick to reach to them about the work being done with Christian/Islam reconciliation)

Catholic Groups (post- meeting note: St Pat's/St Michael's in Hartford agreed to sign on as supporters)

Pagan communities

Buddhist communities (post meeting note: Robin reached out to two groups after the meeting but haven't heard back)

Hindu Communities

Quaker Meeting Houses

PFLAG: (Molly reach out to Mary Ellen)

Close

Current members of the coalition:

- Reverends Marilyn Bowens and Aaron Miller (Metropolitan Community Church New Haven);
- Reverends George Chien and Julio Flores, (Metropolitan Community Church, Hartford);
- Sharon Cutts, LCSW
- Reverend Claudia Elferdink (Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society)
- Pastor Shirley Gadson (Open Door Ministries, Bridgeport);
- John Hinkston (Integrity, Trinity Church, Hartford);
- John Istvan, LCSW
- Reverend Darrick Jackson (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Storrs)
- Reverend Barbara Jamestone (Unitarian Society of Hartford);
- Reverend Charla Kouadio, Recovering Promise Ministry, Springfield, MA;
- Reverend Jan K. Neilson (The Universalist Church, West Hartford)
- Molly Nolan (Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden)
- Reverend Alice O'Donovan (Westfield Congregational Church);
- Reverend James Olsen (United Congregational Church, Meriden);
- Reverend Josh Pawelek (Unitarian Universalist Society, East, Manchester);
- Reverend Sue Pritchard (United Church of Christ, Coventry)
- Michael Reynolds (St. Patrick/St. Anthony, Hartford, Open Hearts, GLBT Ministry)
- Bishop John Selders (Amistad United Church of Christ, Hartford);
- Reverend Laura Westby (First Congregational Church of Danbury, UCC)