

Guided by the Third Church More Light Statement of 1987, we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation and work for "...full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church USA." Highlights of the More Light Committee activities in 2009 are,

- Continued to sponsor the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Support Group, an active ministry for 27 years, which meets on the first and third Mondays of each month.
- Encouraged fellowship throughout the year at Happy Bunch social events.
- Distributed information to and led guided conversations with the Trustees and with Session on what it means to be an officer in a More Light church.
- Supported financially the work of More Light Presbyterians, Covenant Network, Interfaith Advocates and That All May Freely Serve. Members of our congregation have leadership roles on the boards of these organizations.
- Coordinated education and 'get out the vote' efforts in this Presbytery to assure passage of the Book of Order Amendment 08-B. It passed locally but was defeated by a narrow margin nationally.
- Continued co-sponsorship of "Christian Faith and the LGBT Experience" series of forums, this year featuring Dr. Ken Stone, at Lake Ave. Baptist Church and Dr. Paul Capetz at Downtown United Presbyterian Church. Introduced the writings of Dr. Capetz in an Adult Faith Development program.
- Contributed resources to community events such as Rochester LGBT Health Coalition's Health Fair and Temple Sinai's winter Youth Valentine's Party and spring Transgender Workshop.
- Hosted letter and e-mail writing events for members of the community to express support to their representatives in the NYS Legislature for marriage equality and for GENDA (Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act).
- Supported the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley and participated with other church leaders in its Pride in the Pulpit Faith and Lay Leader Breakfasts.
- Sent several members to Albany for Equality and Justice Day, bringing before NYS legislators an awareness of issues such as gender equality, marriage equality, and bullying in schools.
- Celebrated More Light Sunday in worship during Pride Week with members from the Committee participating in the service. Led a hat decorating workshop in preparation for the Pride Parade.
- Marched behind our new More Light banner with other faith groups in the Pride Parade. Showed the movie "No Dumb Questions" at a community movie night during Pride Week.
- Reviewed the book, *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders* by Jennifer Finney Boylan as part of the Adult Faith Development summer book series.
- Participated in the annual Rochester AIDS Walk. Generous support from the congregation and leadership from Committee members enabled Third Church to be among the top fund raisers.
- Paid for an on-screen ad for Third Church that was projected during the Image Out Film Festival.
- Co-sponsored, with other faith groups and community organizations, a love fest (dinner) and a service of prayer at Emmanuel Baptist Church to commemorate World AIDS Day.
- Promoted awareness of More Light Committee activities, resources, and opportunities during the September "Mission Possible" Fair.
- Introduced an overture for the 219th General Assembly that will remove real and perceived barriers to ordained service by LGBT members. The overture was approved by our committee and Session. If approved by the Presbytery, it will be considered by the General Assembly at its meeting in July 2010.
- Rejoiced with Jim and Natalie Stewart who were recommended by Interfaith Advocates and recognized at GRCC's annual dinner for their dedication to justice for GLBT persons.

In 2010, the Committee will continue its journey toward the vision of a church that demonstrates to the world the inclusive spirit of Jesus Christ. It will work at General Assembly, in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and in the Presbyteries across the nation to gain approval of removing barriers in the Book of Order to ordained service by LGBT persons.

Committee Members: Ralph Carter, Jennifer Dinse, James Gage, Gloria Pleger, Caryl Qualich, Jim and Natalie Stewart, Bob Suskie-Reitzel, Lea Theuer, Rob White, Betty Iwan (Chair), Rod Frohman (Associate Pastor)

Betty Iwan, Chairperson