



Leadership Inquiry Meeting

Prepared & Presented By:

Rev. Jacquie Fernandez (she/they)

& James Masters (he/they)

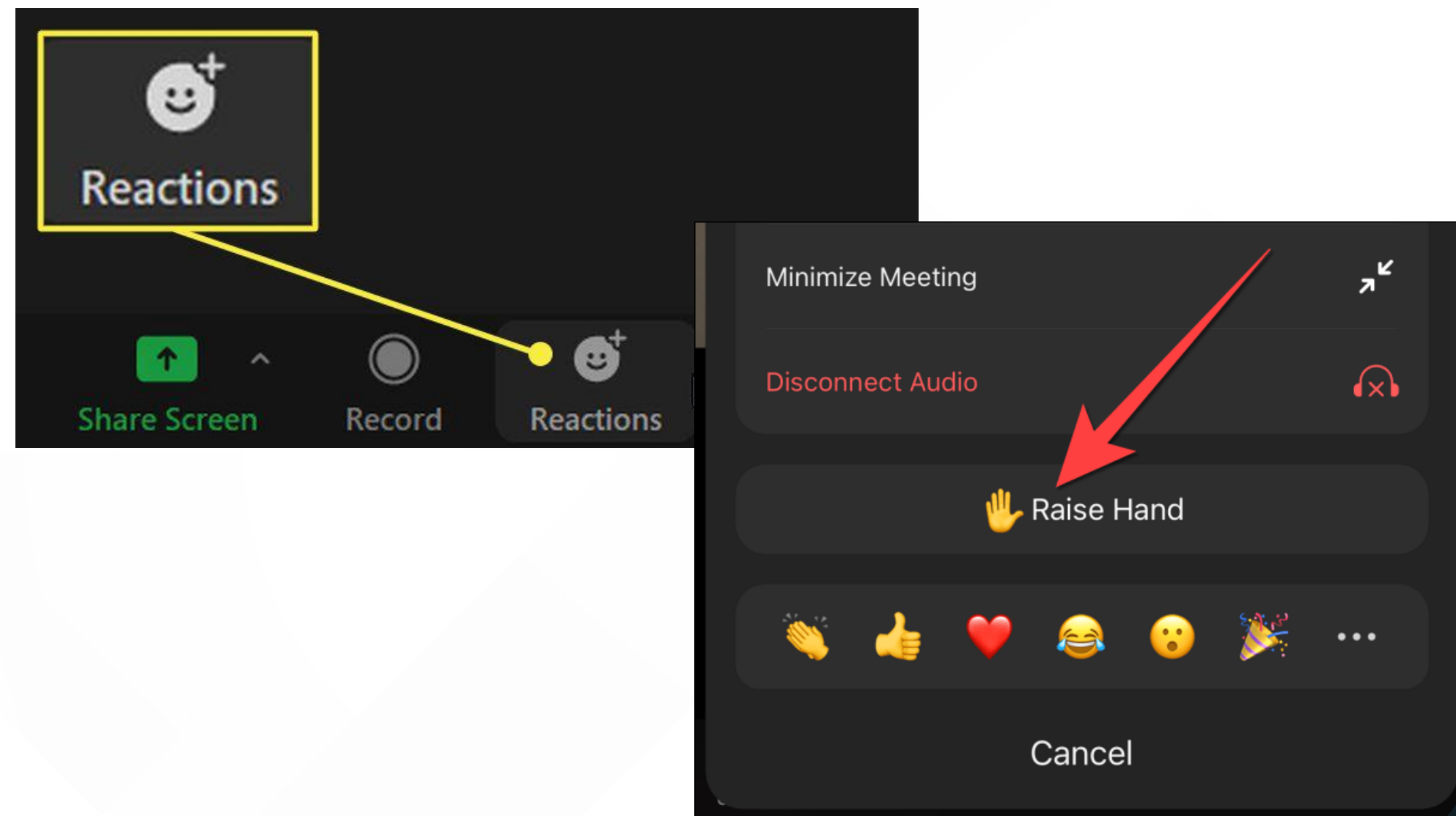


www.folxwithfaith.org



● Meetina & Zoom Info

Raising your hand.





● What We Do:

- Folx with Faith offers tailored resources for spiritual development to LGBTQI+ individuals.
- We support faith-based affinity groups centered around queer experiences.
- We equip allies, such as ministers and other professionals, providing them with resources and tools to enhance their understanding of queer identity and how to create safe and inclusive spaces.

- **FAQ: Why do we use the word Queer?**

Umbrella term for non-cis, non-hetero individuals and communities.



QUEER

● **What is a safe space?**

Understanding the queer religious experience.



● **Introduction to Folx with Faith (Our Mission)**

It is our mission to create safe spaces to explore and experience spiritual wholeness. Folx with Faith supports the queer community, fostering a celebration of our authentic beings and empowering us to make a difference in the world.



● **Introduction to Folx with Faith (Our Vision)**

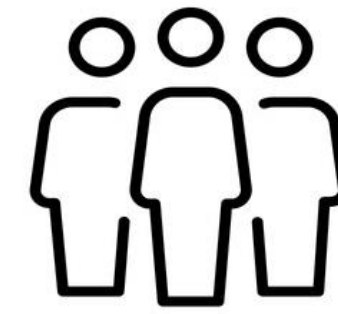
Folx with Faith serves as a beacon of hope and transformation, fostering a community where queer folk connect with their faith, embrace their authentic selves, and discover their unique paths to spiritual fulfillment.

We envision a world where queer individuals of all backgrounds and identities feel empowered to explore their spirituality, personal growth, and healing in safe, supportive, and inclusive spaces.





Join Us



Types of Group Membership



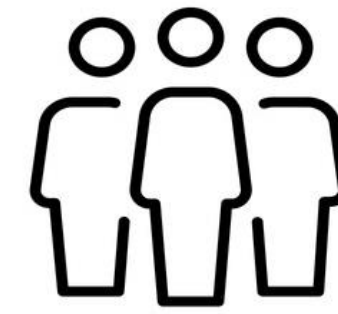
CHAPTER



AFFILIATES



Join us



Types of Group Membership

Fo **lx** **with Faith**[™]
expressions of divine love

CHAPTER

Fo **lx** **with Faith**[™]
expressions of divine love

AFFILIATES

● **FAO: Cost**

- Chapter Cost: \$1500/year
- Affiliate Cost: \$1200/year



- **We have flexible payment plans.**
- **We offer a scholarship!**
 - Before Applying:
 - Has the applicant attempted to raise funds?
 - Have they checked with local affirming spiritual centers or religious organizations?





Directory

Front End of the Website:

- **Directory of Groups**

Find a Group

Showing 1 - 4 of 4

Sort by: Distance ▾



Folx with Faith Overland Park

“Folx with Faith of Overland Park” is an inclusive LGBTQIA+ affinity group hosted by the Unity Church of Overland Park. This group offers a welcoming space for individuals to come together on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12 noon, at Plexpod Lenexa and virtually via Zoom.

♀ Earned Badges

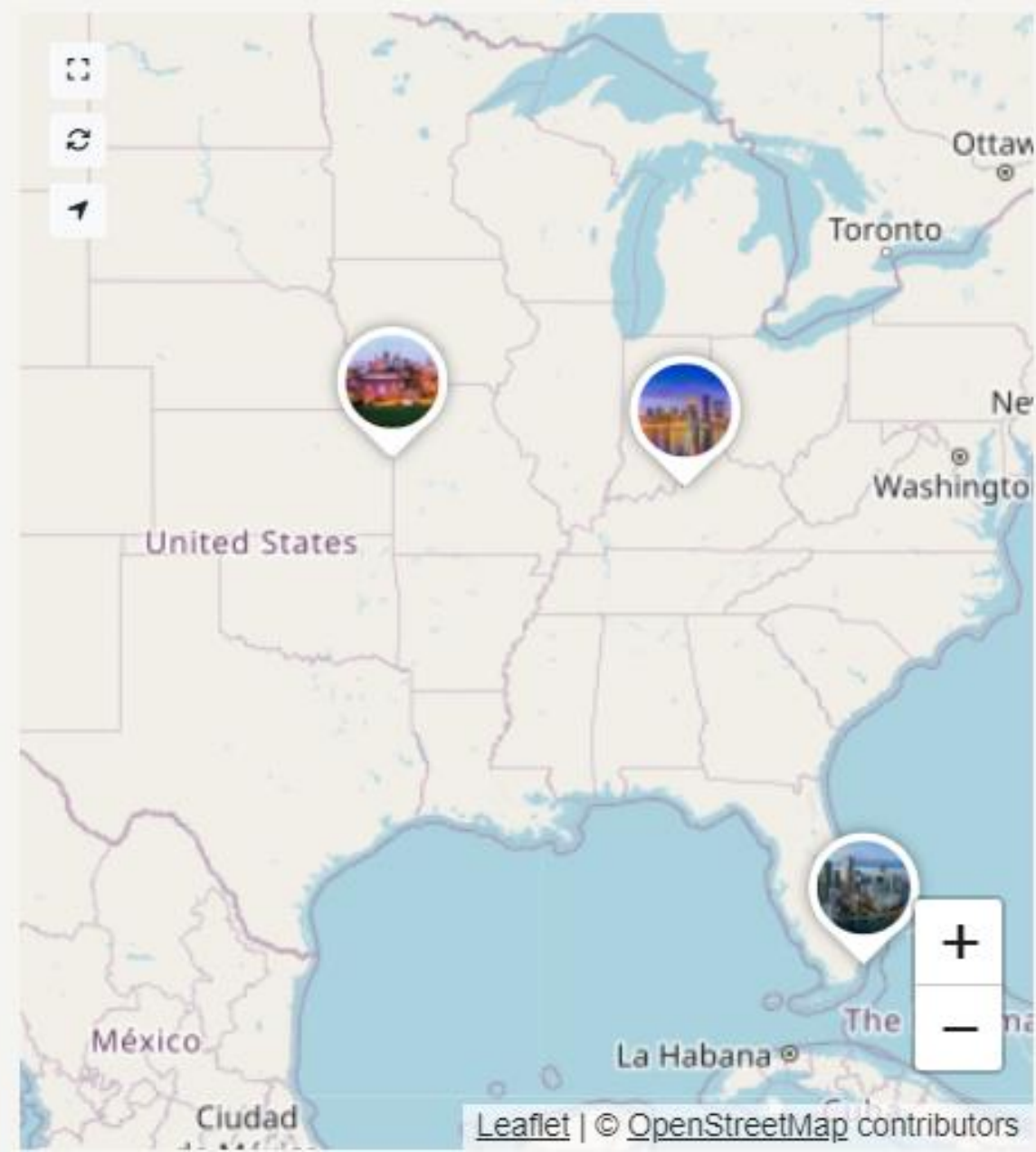
- Faith Informed
- DEI
- Healing Community
- Accessibility
- Gender Inclusive

📍 10000 Marshall Drive #27, Lenexa, Kansas 66215, United States **212.19 mi**





Folx with Faith of Louisville



Folx with Faith of Louisville is an inclusive LGBTQIA+ affinity group hosted by the Unity of Louisville. This group offers a welcoming space for individuals to come together and share



Folx with Faith Overland Park

Badges

-  Faith Informed
-  Gender Inclusive

-  Accessibility
-  Healing Community

-  DEI

Detailed Information

Folx with Faith
expressions of divine love



About This Group

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The gatherings provide a nurturing environment for attendees to delve into spiritual matters, gain insights from various speakers and discussion panels, and forge meaningful connections within the community. The group is dedicated to serving anyone curious about spiritual exploration, identity, and self-expression, regardless of where they stand on their spiritual path.

Unity Church of Overland Park embraces all routes to spirituality and celebrates the vast array of human diversity. Additional details about the church's philosophy and services can be found on their website at ucop.org.

In addition to the monthly meetings, there's also a vibrant Facebook community for "Folx with Faith," where members can continue conversations, share experiences, and support each other virtually.

The mission of "Folx with Faith" is to craft a secure environment that fosters spiritual growth, allowing members of the LGBTQ+ community to honor their true selves. This empowerment is seen as a catalyst for positive change in the world, championing the belief that authenticity in one's spiritual and personal identity can inspire collective transformation.



Monthly Meetings

Meets 4th Saturday of every month at 10:30 AM. Doors open at 10:00 AM.



Virtual/Online Meetings

Virtual meetings are at 10:30 AM (CST) and open to everyone.



Community Building Events

Holiday and other community building events.



ASL Interpreter






Online Community




Folx with Faith Verified:





[Find out more about badges here!](#)


☑ Group Features


-  In Person Meetings
-  Monthly Meetings
-  Holiday Events


-  Virtual Meetings
-  ASL Interpreter
-  Community Building Events

-  Hybrid Meetings
-  Online Community

Contact Information

 10000 Marshall Drive #27, Lenexa, Kansas 66215, United States

 info@folxwithfaith.org

 <https://ucop.org/folx/>



● **Our Ethics Standards: Safe & Inclusive Spaces**

Creating a Safe & Inclusive Space

Group facilitators agree to create safe, inclusive, accessible, and welcoming environments where individuals of all gender identities, sexual orientations, racial/ethnic backgrounds, abilities, and beliefs are embraced, valued, and respected.

Fostering atmospheres that encourage open dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared growth among all group members.

Respect for Diverse Spiritual Traditions & Backgrounds

Group facilitators agree to honor and respect the diverse spiritual backgrounds, beliefs, and traditions of every individual within our group.

Not engaging in proselytizing or any behavior that seeks to impose personal beliefs on others.

● Our Ethics Standards: Safe & Inclusive Spaces

Commitment to Gender Self-Determination

Folx with Faith lists groups that fully support and affirm each person's right to self-determine their gender identity.

Acknowledging and respecting the names, pronouns, and identities that group members use to describe themselves.

Inclusivity & Openness

Group facilitators agree to actively promote and embrace diverse perspectives, experiences, and identities, emphasizing antiracism in their commitment to inclusivity. We are dedicated to creating safe spaces for all participants.

Refraining from language or actions that may marginalize or exclude, focusing instead on fostering an environment that supports diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. This involves recognizing, addressing, and dismantling systemic racism, ensuring that all individuals feel seen, heard, and respected in the group.

● Our Ethics Standards: Group Dynamics

Confidentiality & Privacy

Group facilitators agree to prioritize and safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of all group members' personal stories and experiences.

Creating spaces where individuals feel safe sharing openly, knowing their privacy is respected.

Responsible Leadership

Group facilitators agree to lead discussions, activities, and interactions responsibly and respectfully, ensuring that every member can engage, learn, and connect.

● Our Ethics Standards: Group Dynamics

Promotion of Positive Engagement

Group leaders agree to actively encourage positive engagement, empathy, and active listening among group members.

Fostering atmospheres of mutual support, understanding, and personal growth.

Conflict Resolution

In instances of conflicts or disagreements, group leaders commit to addressing them in a constructive and compassionate manner, with the well-being of all involved as our top priority.

● Folx with Faith Badaes

- A way to recognize individuals or groups that exceed the standards.





Accessibility Badae

Honors groups that prioritize universal accessibility through inclusive design and practices, ensuring all individuals, regardless of physical abilities, can fully engage in physical and digital spaces.



Gender Inclusive

Awarded to groups that champion gender diversity by promoting respect for all identities and upholding the right to gender self-determination in a supportive environment.



DEIJ Informed

Awarded to groups demonstrating a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating equitable opportunities and fostering an environment that celebrates diverse perspectives and experiences.





Healing Spaces

Awarded to those who have completed trauma-informed or emotional wellbeing training, demonstrating a commitment to fostering safe, supportive spaces for healing and growth.



Religion



Faith Informed Badae

Awarded to groups demonstrating respect for diverse spiritual traditions and creating inclusive spaces that honor all religious perspectives.

Find a Group

Showing 1 - 4 of 4

Sort by: Distance ▾



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♀ Earned Badges

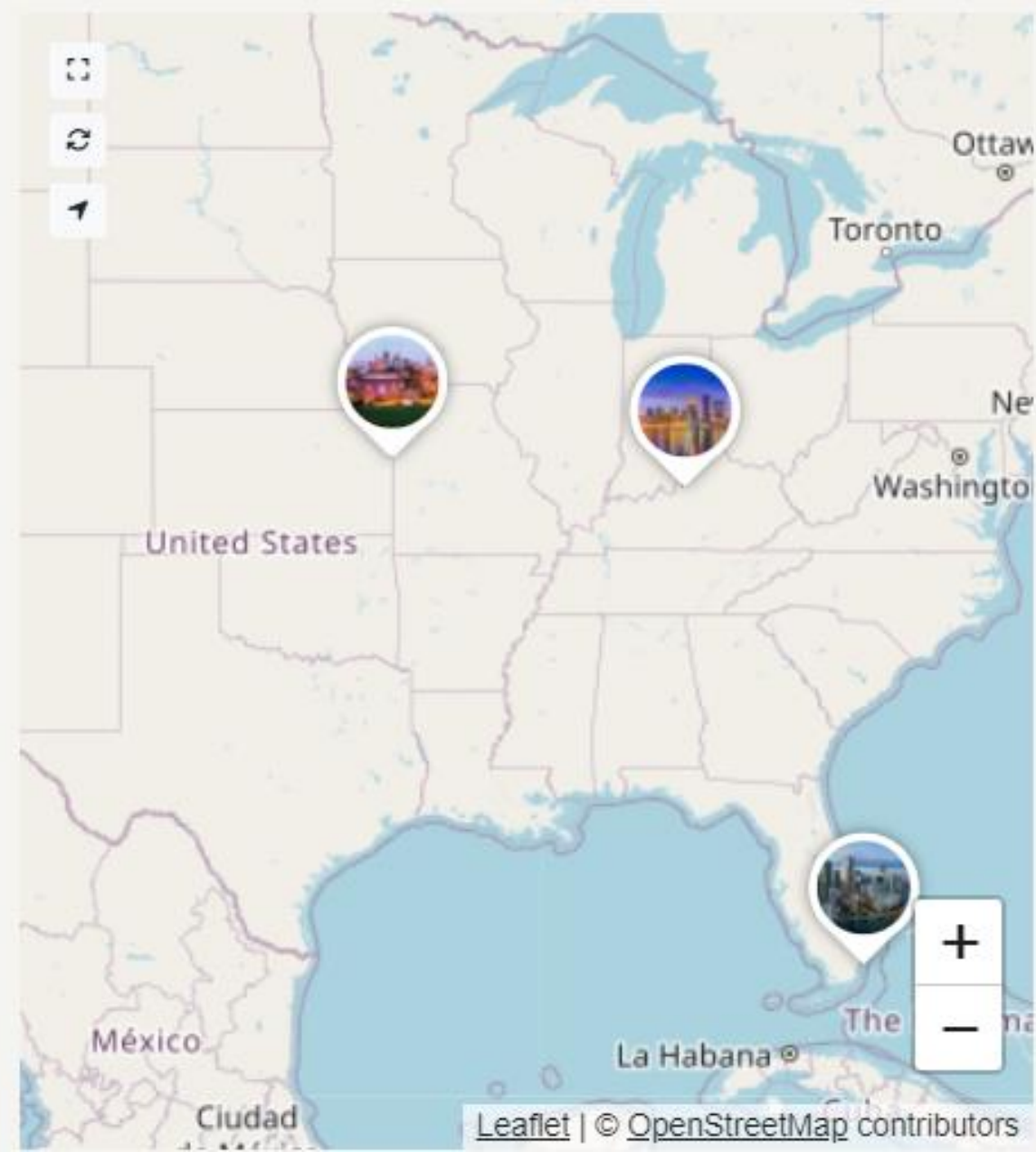
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Folx with Faith Verified:





[Find out more about badges here!](#)


✓ Group Features


-  In Person Meetings
-  Monthly Meetings
-  Holiday Events


-  Virtual Meetings
-  ASL Interpreter
-  Community Building Events

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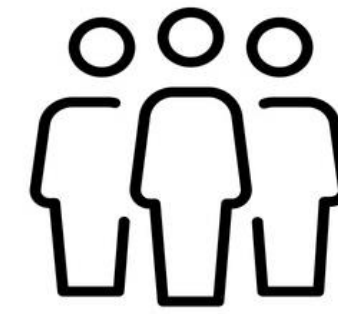


Back End of the Website:

- **Chapter 8 Affiliate Services**



Join Us



User Dashboard



CHAPTER

Supports Six Users



AFFILIATES

Supports Four Users

CHAPTER DASHBOARD

You can access all of your member content through the member dashboard.



[LEARN](#)



[BRANDING](#)



[BLOG](#)



[SETTINGS](#)



[CONTACT](#)

Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



Group Members

Total (1) Owner (1)

Name **Role** **Actions**

James Masters Owner

Add Group Members

Member First Name

Member Last Name

Member Email

Member Username (optional)

If left blank, the member's email address will be used.

Member Password (optional)

If left blank, the password will be randomly generated.

Disable the group invite email and automatically add this user to the group. (If a new user is created, then the new user notification will be sent out.)

CHAPTER DASHBOARD

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[LEARN](#)



[BRANDING](#)



[BLOG](#)



[SETTINGS](#)



[CONTACT](#)

Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



♥ Branding



Chapter Toolkit

Download the Chapter Toolkit for more information about building a group using the Folx with Faith brand, information about marketing language, and branding/logo guidelines.

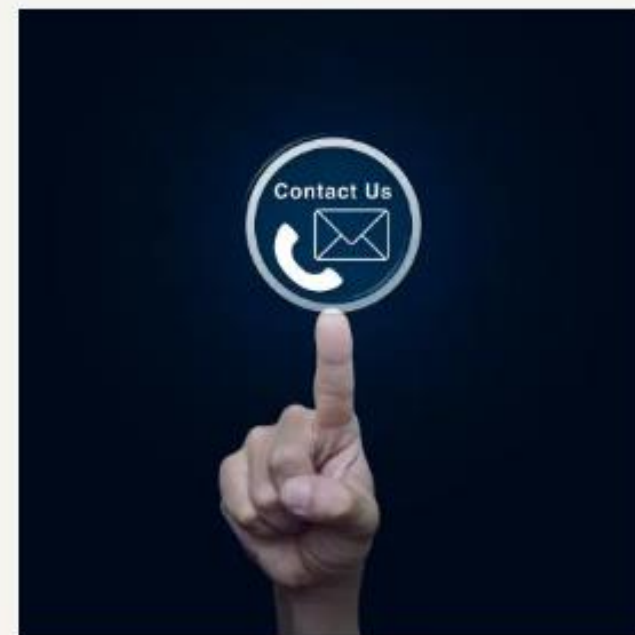
[DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT](#)



Order Merchandise

Show your pride with Folx with Faith by ordering merchandise. Represent our inclusive community with a range of branded items, from apparel to accessories. This merch is great for events, especially at local Pride event booths! Wear your affiliation proudly, and let your support for Queer affirming faith spaces shine. Click the button below to explore and order your Folx with Faith merchandise.

We are still in the process of developing this part of our program, however, if you need Folx with Faith merch in the meantime, we have you covered. Just send us a message regarding what you need and we'll give send you an



We're Here For You!

For inquiries regarding the branding license or branding information as a Folx with Faith chapter, please feel free to reach out to us. We're here to support you in every step of the way. Your questions and concerns are important to us, and we'll ensure you have the information you need to represent Folx with Faith with pride and authenticity.

[CONTACT US](#)

Keychains



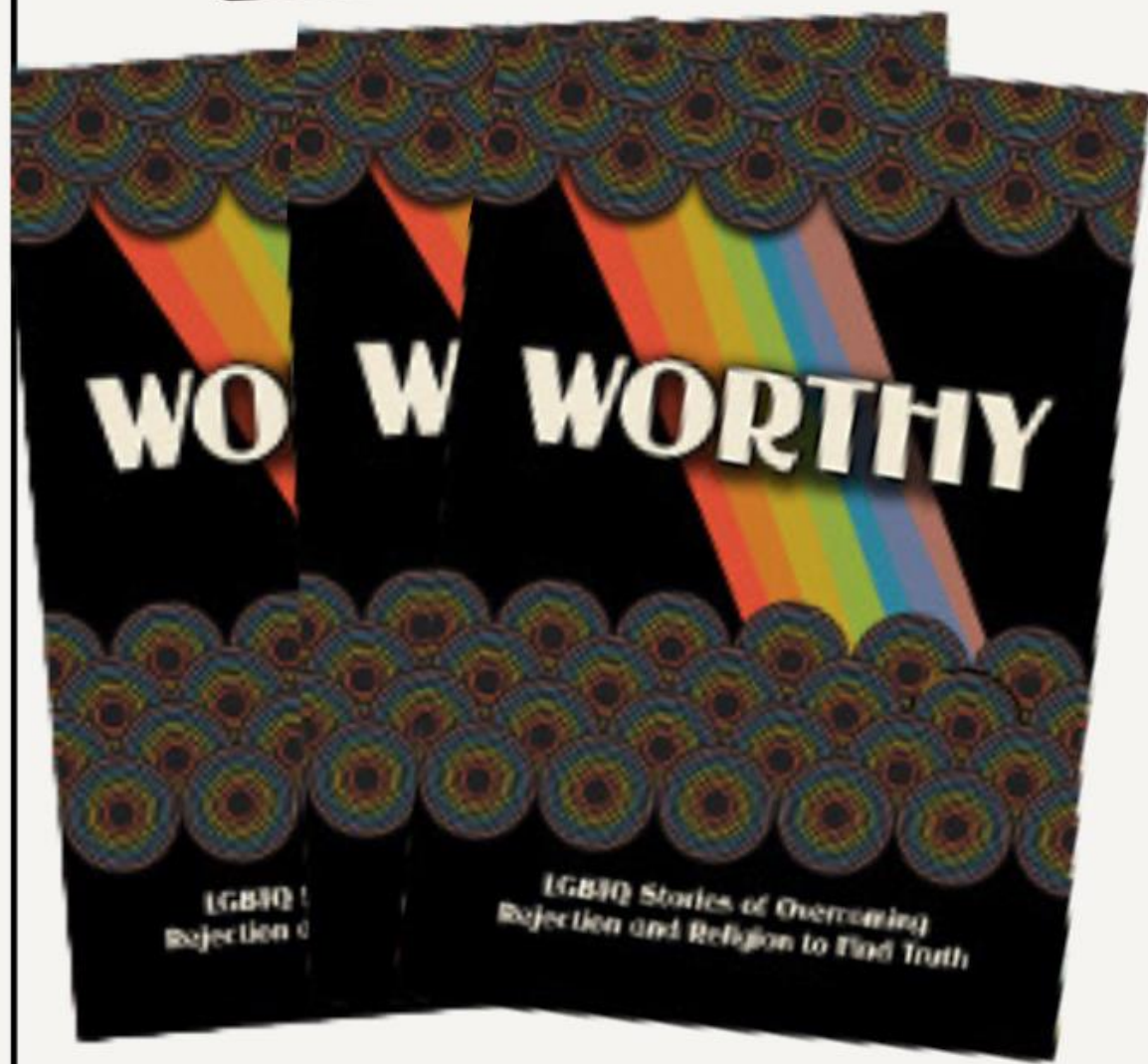
Pride Flag



Bookmarks



Worthy Booklets



T-Shirts

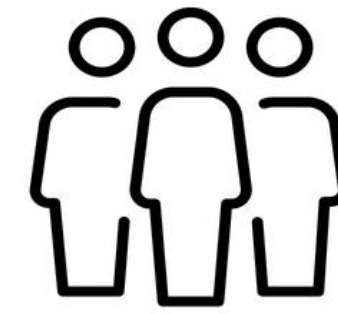


Condoms





Join Us



User Dashboard



CHAPTER

Supports Six Users



AFFILIATES

Supports Four Users

AFFILIATE DASHBOARD

You can access all of your member content through the member dashboard.



Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



Badges



Meeting Templates & Guides



Visibility & Voice: Spreading



Update Your Folx with Faith

Group Members

Total (1) Owner (1)

Name **Role** **Actions**

James Masters Owner

Add Group Members

Member First Name

Member Last Name

Member Email

Member Username (optional)

If left blank, the member's email address will be used.

Member Password (optional)

If left blank, the password will be randomly generated.

Disable the group invite email and automatically add this user to the group. (If a new user is created, then the new user notification will be sent out.)

AFFILIATE DASHBOARD

You can access all of your member content through the member dashboard.



Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



Badges



Meeting Templates & Guides



Visibility & Voice: Spreading



Update Your Folx with Faith

Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



Badges

Your group has the opportunity to earn badges that reflect your dedication to key areas like trans issues literacy, accessibility, DEI, and more. These badges are indicators of your group's competencies and commitment to important issues.

This is a chance to highlight your group's achievements and commitment to creating a more inclusive and informed community. We are working on courses now, but if you or one someone that is helping to organize your group has already completed literacy training, please be sure to share it with us.

[More About Badges](#)



Meeting Templates & Guides

Our meeting guides are crafted to cover a range of faith and queer-related topics.

Each template provides a structured framework for engaging and thought-provoking discussions. From inclusive spirituality to navigating diverse faith traditions, these guides offer a roadmap for creating impactful meetings that foster understanding, respect, and growth within your community.

[Meeting Guides](#)



Visibility & Voice: Spreading the Word About Your Group (Mini Course)

This "mini-course" is designed to empower leaders in effectively marketing and expanding the visibility of their queer faith groups. It covers storytelling, community collaboration, maximizing visibility at events, online engagement, and synthesizes these strategies for impactful, inclusive community building.

[Start This Course](#)



Update Your Folx with Faith Directory Listing

Keeping directory listings up to date is crucial for maintaining visibility and accessibility. Accurate, current information ensures that those seeking your group can easily connect, fostering timely communication and engagement. Please be sure to update us if your meeting times change or if you add something to your group's program, such as a change in your social media presence.

[Send Us an Update](#)

Meeting Templates & Guides

Guides

Our meeting guides are designed to encompass various topics related to the queer faith experience. Each guide serves as a structured blueprint for facilitating engaging and insightful discussions. These guides are your key to crafting meaningful meetings that enhance understanding, respect, and growth in your community, covering everything from inclusive spirituality to the exploration of diverse faith traditions.

Presentations

While most guides come with a PowerPoint presentation, their use is entirely optional. Many groups opt not to use them, but they are available for those who prefer a visual aid in their presentations. Please note that the images in our presentations are licensed for chapter and affiliate use only.

Make It Yours

Feel empowered to customize these materials to best suit your needs.

Template

Basic Meeting Guide

As we've developed our Folx with Faith groups we have found that structured meetings are an ideal way to conduct a meeting. This is the basic template that we use to format our meetings.

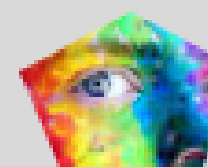


NEWEST RELEASE

A Folx with Faith Workshop

Self-Expression Mandala

This workshop, in collaboration with **Unity Arts Ministry** and **Rev. Jen Hutchins**, invites participants to explore their spirituality through creating mandalas. Guided by an accompanying video, the session combines creative expression with spiritual reflection, fostering self-discovery and community connection.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Does God Gendered? | Exploring Gender & The Evolution of God

This meeting template is designed for those interested in understanding the evolution of the concept of God within the Judeo-Christian tradition. It delves into how perceptions of divinity have shifted over time, offering insights into gender and the divine, and is particularly valuable for individuals deconstructing their religious past or those curious about the theological developments within this tradition. Perfect for small group discussions, it encourages participants to explore and expand their spiritual understanding.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Queer Mysticism



Meeting Template & Presentation

Religious Trauma: Navigating a Path to Recovery

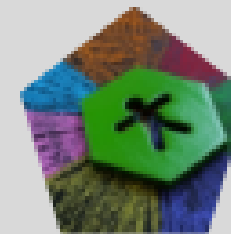
This template aims at guiding those who have experienced exclusion or trauma from religious institutions toward healing and reclaiming their spiritual path. It helps people understand the effects of religious trauma, particularly in the queer community, as well as provides resources and suggestions on ways to find healing for religious trauma.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Intersectionality & Spirituality: Recognizing Diverse Identities

This template aims to provide an introduction to how intersecting identities (race, gender, gender identity, sexuality, disability, etc.) impact spiritual experiences and religious practices.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Building Bridges

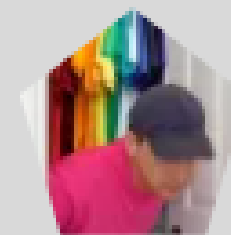
This template aims to create a supportive and engaging space where participants can learn and practice the skills necessary for meaningful interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue, enhancing their ability to build bridges across differences.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Coming Out

This template aims to create a space where participants can share their experiences, find spiritual support, and connect with others on similar journeys. It covers many of the basics of the coming out experience.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Let's Talk About Sex: Sex Positivity and Spiritual Health

This template is designed to create a supportive and open space where participants can explore and discuss the intersection of sex positivity and spiritual health, fostering a more integrated and affirming understanding of these aspects of their lives.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Rituals of Healing: Prayer

This template is designed to foster a thoughtful and supportive





Meeting Template & Presentation

Breaking the Mold

This template is designed to promote discussions exploring and embracing body positivity, particularly in the context of queer identities and experiences



Meeting Template & Presentation

Rituals of Healing: Prayer

This template is designed to foster a thoughtful and supportive discussion where participants can explore the meaningful role that the ritual of prayer can play a role in both emotional and spiritual wellness.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Sex Positivity and Spiritual Health

This outline is designed to create a supportive and open space where participants can explore and discuss the intersection of sex positivity and spiritual health, fostering a more integrated and affirming understanding of these aspects of their lives.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Resilience through Storytelling

This outline is designed to create a space where participants can discover the transformative power of storytelling in building resilience and promoting healing within the queer community.



Scheduled Release Date:
March 27, 2024



Meeting Template & Presentation

Gender Identity

This outline aims to create a space where individuals can explore and discuss the intersections of gender identity and spirituality, fostering a deeper understanding and acceptance within the community.



Scheduled Release Date:
April 24, 2024




1



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3



Folx with Faith™
expressions of divine love

RITUALS OF HEALING

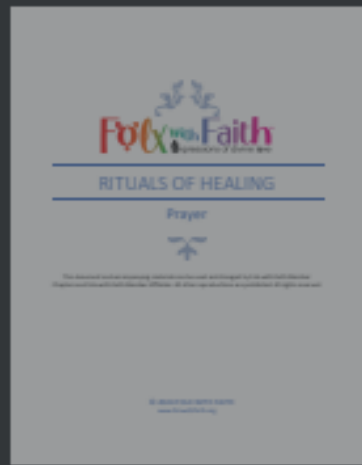
Prayer



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Rituals of Healing: Prayer

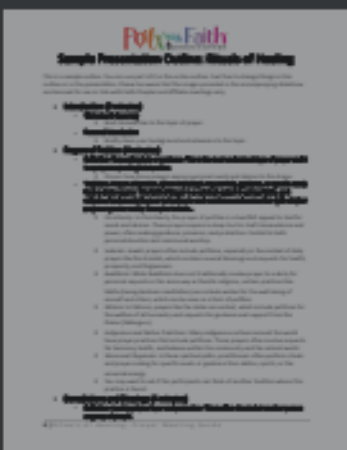
00:00	Doors Open for Sign-In & Fellowship
00:15	Zoom Host Logs In (If Applicable)
00:30	Welcome & Introductions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mention the topic in the welcome. Set ground rules for this topic. Emphasize the importance of respect, active listening, and non-judgmental engagement. Introduce group facilitators or leaders.
00:35	Personal Story from a Member
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow one of your members to share part of their story of hope through faith.
00:40	Introductions with Ice Breaker Questions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust segment based on number of attendees. Sample icebreakers for this topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you could have a conversation with any historical or fictional character about spirituality or identity, who would it be and why? What's one thing you're hoping to gain or learn from today's session? Share one of your favorite quotes or sayings and tell us why it resonates with you.
01:00	Centering Moment & Introduction of Presenter <i>*A sample opening ritual can be found on p 3</i>
01:05	Presentation <i>*You will find a sample outline starting on p3</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do NOT need to use a PowerPoint presentation*, but a sample PowerPoint is provided in the resources for this template. Feel free to make changes to the outline and slideshow as needed. There is a resource section on page 10 and a corresponding slide that has most of these resources. <p><i>*Please note that images used in the slideshow are licensed for Folx with Faith chapter and affiliate groups only.</i></p>
01:35	Breakout Groups or Celebration Circle Activity <i>*Samples can be found on p 11 & 12</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample breakout group questions can be found on page 10. The Passing the Metta activity can be found on page 11.
01:50	Ritualized Meditation with Statement Affirming Queer Identity <i>*Sample closing on p 13</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take five minutes to close with a meditation. Ensure that there is a statement affirming queer identities during this time.
01:55	Announcements & Invitations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let attendees know of any upcoming events. Promote your website, website listing on Folx with Faith, social media outlets, or any other method you use to stay in contact. You may want to "pass the clipboard" again if you have a sign up to stay in touch.
02:00	Meeting Conclusion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give guests a final opportunity to sign up if they haven't already.



3



4



5



Sample Opening/Centering Practice

As we gather in this space, let's take a moment to center ourselves in an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness.

Today, we look at the tradition of prayer, discovering how this sacred practice weaves through the tapestry of numerous faiths and traditions. Each strand of prayer, from the silent meditations of the East to the communal petitions of the West, forms a part of the intricate mosaic of spiritual expression.

We set our intention to create a respectful and inclusive space. As we do, we invite each of you to engage with curiosity and empathy. Honoring the diversity of our spiritual journeys, recognizing that every tradition offers unique insights and pathways to the divine. As we share, listen, and learn from each other, may we find common ground in our collective quest for understanding, compassion, and deeper spiritual connection.

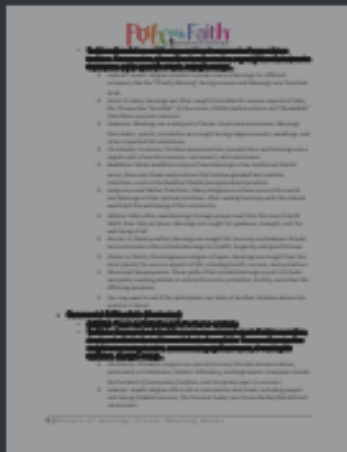
Together, let us celebrate the richness of human spirituality. May our exploration today deepen our appreciation for the myriad ways in which people connect with something greater than themselves.

Blessings on our time together, and in the spirit of your own tradition or beliefs, may our gathering be fruitful and enlightening.

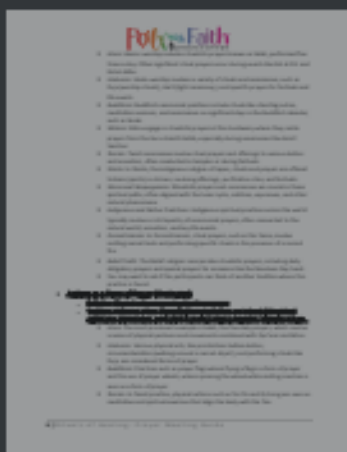
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6



7



Sample Presentation Outline: Rituals of Healing

This is a sample outline. You can use part of it or the entire outline. Feel free to change things in this outline or in the presentation. Please be aware that the images provided in the accompanying slideshow are licensed for use in Folx with Faith Chapter and Affiliate meetings only.

- **Introduction (2 minutes)**
 - **Welcome & Overview**
 - Brief introduction to the topic of prayer.
 - **Personal Introduction**
 - Briefly share your background and relevance to the topic.
- **Prayers of Petition (4 minutes)**
 - **Definition: Requesting help or guidance. This is the most understood type of prayer and it is a prayer requesting intervention.**
 - Discuss how these prayers express personal needs and desires to the divine.
 - **Traditions: Prayers of petition, where individuals request help, guidance, or specific needs from a divine source. This form of prayer is a common aspect in various faiths, as it reflects a fundamental human inclination to seek assistance and connection with a higher power or greater reality. Examples include...**
 - *Christianity:* In Christianity, the prayer of petition is a heartfelt appeal to God for needs and desires. These prayers express a deep trust in God's benevolence and power, often seeking guidance, provision, and protection. Central to both personal devotion and communal worship.
 - *Judaism:* Jewish prayers often include petitions, especially in the context of daily prayers like the Amidah, which contains several blessings and requests for health, prosperity, and forgiveness.
 - *Buddhism:* While Buddhism does not traditionally involve prayer to a deity for personal requests in the same way as theistic religions, certain practices like Metta (loving-kindness meditation) can include wishes for the well-being of oneself and others, which can be seen as a form of petition.
 - *Sikhism:* In Sikhism, prayers like the Ardas are recited, which include petitions for the welfare of all humanity and requests for guidance and support from the Divine (Waheguru).
 - *Indigenous and Native Traditions:* Many indigenous cultures around the world have prayer practices that include petitions. These prayers often involve requests



10



11



12



RESOURCES

- **Books and Articles:**
 - "Prayer: A History" by Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski: An exploration of the practice of prayer across various religious traditions throughout history.
 - "The World's Religions" by Huston Smith: A comprehensive guide to the major religious traditions, including their practices and philosophies.
 - "Love Poems from God: Twelve Sacred Voices from East to West" by translations by Daniel Ladinsky: An anthology of poems by mystics from various Eastern and Western traditions.
 - "The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment" by Eckhart Tolle: Discusses the importance of mindfulness and presence, applicable to various forms of prayer and meditation.
 - "Autobiography of a Yogi" by Paramahansa Yogananda: Provides insights into Indian spiritual practices, including mantra chanting.
 - "The Heart of Buddhist Meditation" by Nyanaponika Thera: A detailed guide to the practice of Buddhist meditation and mindfulness.
 - "Sacred Pathways" by Gary Thomas: Explores different ways people connect with the divine, providing a broad perspective on spiritual practices.
- **Websites and Online Communities:**
 - Beliefnet (www.beliefnet.com): Offers a wide array of resources on different faiths, spiritual practices, and prayers.
 - World Prayers (www.worldprayers.org): A compilation of adorations, celebrations, meditations, and invocations from various traditions around the world.
 - The Pluralism Project (pluralism.org): Provides extensive information on the religious diversity in the United States, including practices and rituals.
 - Sacred Texts (www.sacred-texts.com): An extensive archive of online texts from various spiritual and religious traditions.
 - The Interfaith Observer (theinterfaithobserver.org): An online journal that provides articles and resources on interfaith practices, including prayer.
- **Apps and Tools:**
 - Insight Timer (App): Features guided meditations and talks, including ones focused on specific mantras and spiritual traditions.



Sample “Breakout Group” Questions

Here is a list of topics designed to get the conversation started about prayer. Feel free to come up with your own inquiries related to this topic.

Group Questions

- **Personal Prayer Experiences:**
 - "Could you share a personal experience where prayer played a significant role in your life? How did it impact your situation or your feelings about it?"
- **Diversity in Prayer Practices:**
 - "Have you explored different methods of prayer? (eg. Prayers of petition, chanting, affirmative prayer, etc.) Which ones resonate with you the most, and why?"
- **Integration of Prayer in Daily Life:**
 - "How do you incorporate prayer into your daily routine? Are there specific times or situations where you find yourself more inclined to pray?"
- **Prayer and Spiritual Growth:**
 - "In what ways has prayer contributed to your spiritual growth or understanding of your faith?"
- **Challenges with Prayer:**
 - "Have you ever faced challenges or doubts in your prayer practice? How did you address these feelings?"
- **Prayer as a Source of Comfort or Strength:**
 - "Can you recall a time when prayer provided you with comfort or strength during a difficult period?"
- **The Role of Community in Prayer:**
 - "How does praying with others or within a community differ from your personal prayer practice? Do you find one more powerful or meaningful than the other?"
- **Prayer and Personal Transformation:**
 - "Do you believe that prayer has the power to transform individuals? If so, could you share an example from your own life or someone you know?"
- **Prayer in Times of Doubt or Crisis:**
 - "How do you approach prayer during times of doubt, crisis, or uncertainty? Does your prayer practice change in these times?"
- **Non-Traditional Forms of Prayer:**
 - "Besides spoken or silent prayers, do you engage in any non-traditional forms of prayer,

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Possible Activity: Passing the Metta

The Metta Meditation is an open ritual from the Buddhist tradition and an inclusive practice.

Objective: To cultivate loving-kindness within the group and extend it outward to the world.

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Instructions:

Introduction to Metta Meditation (3 minutes): Briefly explain the concept of Metta or loving-kindness meditation, emphasizing its roots in Buddhist practice and its focus on cultivating compassion and empathy towards oneself and others.

Forming a Circle (2 minutes): Arrange the participants in a circle, either sitting or standing, to create a sense of unity and connection.

Guided Start (5 minutes): Begin with a guided introduction to Metta meditation. Ask everyone to close their eyes and take a few deep breaths to center themselves. Guide them to silently repeat phrases of loving-kindness towards themselves, such as "May I be happy, may I be healthy, may I be safe, may I live with ease."

Passing the Metta (5-10 minutes):

Start the passing of Metta: one participant turns to the person on their left and, maintaining eye contact, says the Metta phrases, personalizing it for the other person, e.g., "May you be happy, may you be healthy, may you be safe, may you live with ease." The recipient then internalizes this Metta by repeating the phrases to themselves silently, embracing the loving-kindness they've received. This recipient then turns to their left and repeats the process, offering Metta to the next person in the circle.

Extending Metta Outward (3 minutes): Once the Metta has circulated back to the starting person, lead the group in extending these intentions outwards. Together, the group says, "May we be happy, may we be healthy, may we be safe, may we live with ease." Finally, expand the loving-kindness to the world: "May all beings be happy, may all beings be healthy, may all beings be safe, may all beings live with ease."

Closing Reflection (2 minutes):

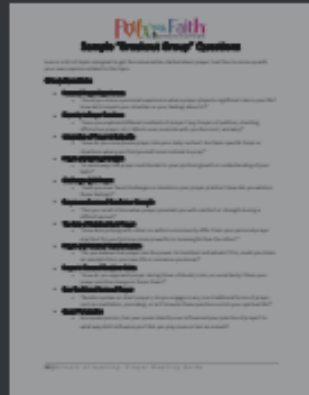
Invite the group to reflect on the experience of both giving and receiving Metta. Encourage a few moments of silent reflection on the power of loving-kindness and its rippling effect in the world.

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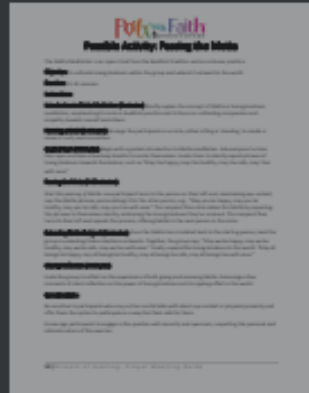
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Sample Closing Meditation

(Begin by inviting everyone to find a comfortable seated position. Encourage them to gently close their eyes if they feel at ease doing so.)

"Let's take a moment to center ourselves as we come to the close of our gathering. Breathe deeply, inhaling peace and acceptance, exhaling any tension or reservations. With each breath, feel more present in this space, more grounded in this moment.

(Allow a few moments for deep breathing.)

Now, visualize a warm, embracing light surrounding you. This light represents unconditional love and acceptance. It radiates compassion, understanding, and a deep sense of peace. Feel this light as it gently envelops you, affirming your identity, your journey, and your truth.

(Pause for reflection.)

In this space of love and light, let us affirm together: 'I am an expression of Divine Love. My queer identity is a beautiful aspect of my unique self, deserving of respect and celebration.'



Meeting Template & Presentation

Breaking the Mold

This template is designed to promote discussions exploring and embracing body positivity, particularly in the context of queer identities and experiences



Meeting Template & Presentation

Rituals of Healing: Prayer

This template is designed to foster a thoughtful and supportive discussion where participants can explore the meaningful role that the ritual of prayer can play a role in both emotional and spiritual wellness.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Sex Positivity and Spiritual Health

This outline is designed to create a supportive and open space where participants can explore and discuss the intersection of sex positivity and spiritual health, fostering a more integrated and affirming understanding of these aspects of their lives.



Meeting Template & Presentation

Resilience through Storytelling

This outline is designed to create a space where participants can discover the transformative power of storytelling in building resilience and promoting healing within the queer community.



Scheduled Release Date:
March 27, 2024



Meeting Template & Presentation

Gender Identity

This outline aims to create a space where individuals can explore and discuss the intersections of gender identity and spirituality, fostering a deeper understanding and acceptance within the community.



Scheduled Release Date:
April 24, 2024

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Foxy with Faith
expressions of divine love

Queer Body Positivity

BREAKING THE MOLD!

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Defining Body Positivity

Historical Perspectives

CHALLENGES OF THE QUEER COMMUNITY

- Stereotypes and Media Representation
- Internalized Homophobia
- Body Image Issues Specific to Trans Individuals
- Gender Dysphoria
- Accessibility in Gender-Affirming Care

INTERSECTIONALITY

- Understanding Intersectionality
- Intersection of Race and Body Image
- Racial Identity and Body Positivity
- Gender Identity
- Intersectional Behavioral Health and Body Positivity Resources

"IT'S NOT ABOUT LOOKING A CERTAIN WAY, IT'S ABOUT FEELING GOOD IN WHO YOU ARE. I AM NOT BEAUTIFUL DESPITE MY IMPERFECTIONS; I AM BEAUTIFUL BECAUSE OF THEM." - LAVERNE COX

THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- Social Media's Role
- Positive Aspects of Social Media
- Negative Impacts of Social Media
- Specific Challenges for the Queer Community

DIGITAL LITERACY

- Recognize Altered Realities on Social Media
- Evaluate Sources and Content Carefully
- Create a Positive Social Media Experience
- Practice Mindful Screen Time

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9 STRATEGIES FOR POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

10 "YOU HAVE BEEN CRITICIZING YOURSELF FOR YEARS, AND IT HASN'T WORKED. TRY APPROVING OF YOURSELF AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS." - LOUISE HAY

11 COMMUNITY SUPPORT & RESOURCES

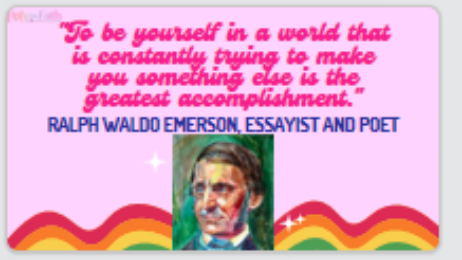
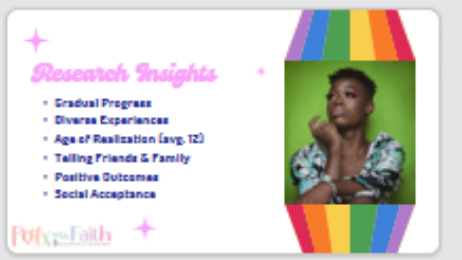
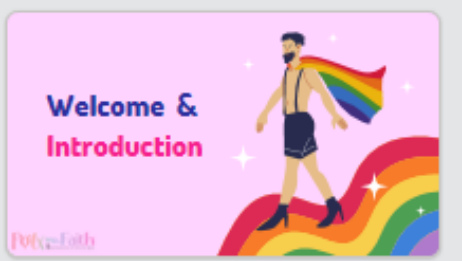
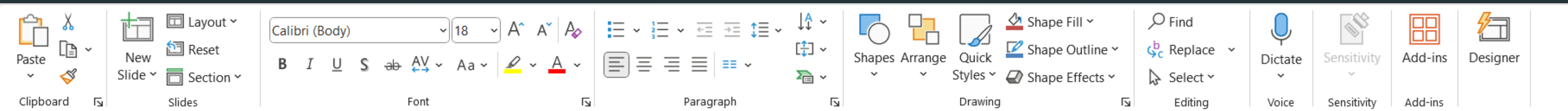
12 "LOVE YOURSELF FIRST AND EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS INTO LINE. YOU REALLY HAVE TO LOVE YOURSELF TO GET ANYTHING DONE IN THIS WORLD." - MELISSA ETHERIDGE

13 RESOURCES

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"LOVE YOURSELF FIRST AND EVERYTHING ELSE FALLS INTO LINE. YOU REALLY HAVE TO LOVE YOURSELF TO GET ANYTHING DONE IN THIS WORLD." - MELISSA ETHERIDGE

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Understanding Coming Out as a Personal Choice

A PERSONAL JOURNEY PREPARING FOR COMING OUT

6

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The Process of Coming Out

IT'S NOT A ONE TIME EVENT YOUR STORY, YOUR PACE!

7

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I've been embraced by a new community. That's what happens when you're finally honest about who you are; you find others like you.

Chaz Bone, writer, musician, and actor

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Dealing with Questions & Reactions

Common Questions Responding to Curiosity

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The Ongoing Journey of Coming Out

Coming Out as a Lifelong Process Fluidity of Queer Identity

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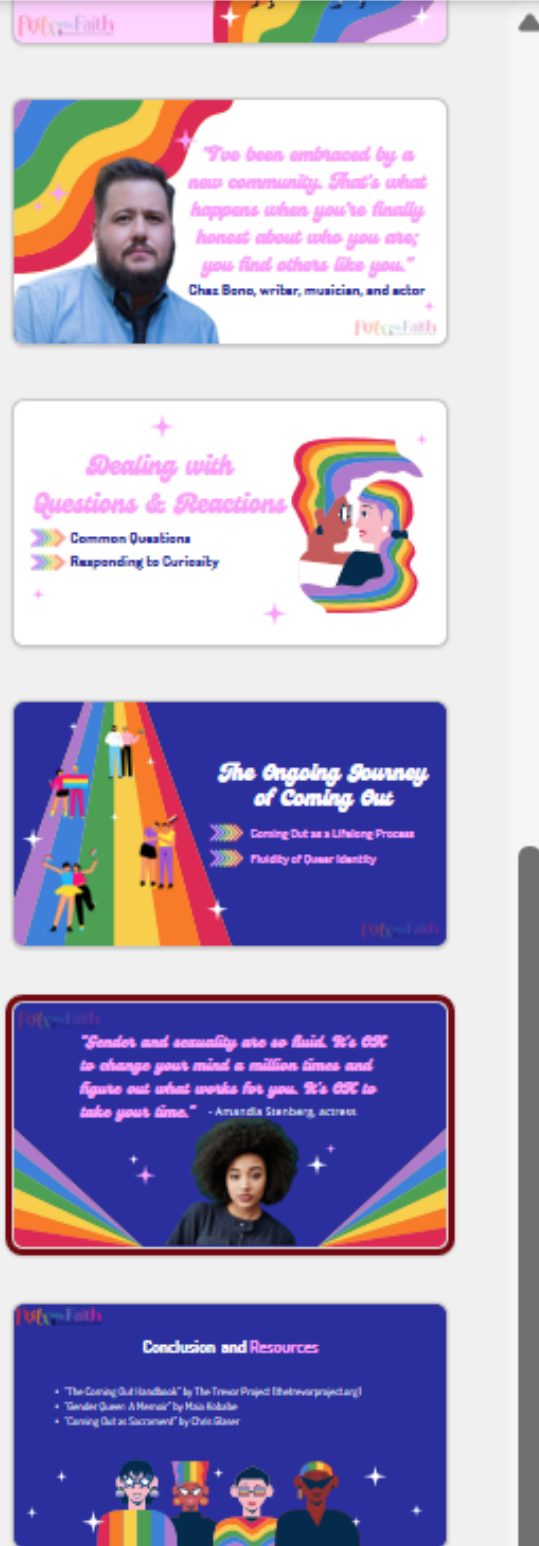
Understanding Coming Out as a Personal Choice

A PERSONAL JOURNEY

PREPARING FOR COMING OUT



- Understanding Coming Out as a Personal Choice (5 minutes)



Fo'x with Faith
Expressions of divine love

"Gender and sexuality are so fluid. It's OK to change your mind a million times and figure out what works for you. It's OK to take your time." - Amanda Stenberg, actress

SLIDE Amanda Stenberg quote, "Gender and sexuality are so fluid. It's OK to change your mind a million times and figure out what works for you. It's OK to take your time."

Develop & Learn

Group Development Resources



Badges

Your group has the opportunity to earn badges that reflect your dedication to key areas like trans issues literacy, accessibility, DEI, and more. These badges are indicators of your group's competencies and commitment to important issues.

This is a chance to highlight your group's achievements and commitment to creating a more inclusive and informed community. We are working on courses now, but if you or one someone that is helping to organize your group has already completed literacy training, please be sure to share it with us.

[More About Badges](#)



Meeting Templates & Guides

Our meeting guides are crafted to cover a range of faith and queer-related topics.

Each template provides a structured framework for engaging and thought-provoking discussions. From inclusive spirituality to navigating diverse faith traditions, these guides offer a roadmap for creating impactful meetings that foster understanding, respect, and growth within your community.

[Meeting Guides](#)



Visibility & Voice: Spreading the Word About Your Group (Mini Course)

This "mini-course" is designed to empower leaders in effectively marketing and expanding the visibility of their queer faith groups. It covers storytelling, community collaboration, maximizing visibility at events, online engagement, and synthesizes these strategies for impactful, inclusive community building.

[Start This Course](#)



Update Your Folx with Faith Directory Listing

Keeping directory listings up to date is crucial for maintaining visibility and accessibility. Accurate, current information ensures that those seeking your group can easily connect, fostering timely communication and engagement. Please be sure to update us if your meeting times change or if you add something to your group's program, such as a change in your social media presence.

[Send Us an Update](#)



Visibility & Voice: Spreading the Word About Your Group

- Session 1: Finding Your Voice
 - Session 1 Video
 - Session 1 Resources
- Session 2: Connecting with Other Organizations
 - Session 2 Video
 - Session 2 Resources
- Session 3: Maximizing Visibility in Social & Celebratory Settings
 - Session 3 Video
 - Session 3 Resources
- Session 4: Online Engagement
 - Session 4 Video

Session 1 Video

Session 1 Video

[Visibility & Voice: Spreading the Word About Your Group](#) > [Session 1 Video](#)

IN PROGRESS



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Group Development Resources



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[Send Us an Update](#)

Literacy & Competency Courses



Gender, Pronouns, & Why They Matter

This course focuses on inclusive leadership and discusses the intricacies of gender identity and pronouns. Learn how to champion a supportive environment for all gender identities. The materials are designed to broaden your understanding on why gender affirming leadership is an integral part of creating safe spaces for group members to thrive.

The anticipated release date is March of 2024.



Gender Inclusive Badge

[More About Badges](#)



Creating Inclusive Spaces

Group leadership is all about creating accessible spaces. This course is intended to provide the knowledge to enhance the participation of people with diverse sets of ability identities and gain a better understanding of physical, financial, and communication accessibility. Our goal with this course is to provide practical skills to foster a welcoming environment for everyone.

The anticipated release date is May of 2024.



Accessibility Badge

[More About Badges](#)



Faith Informed Leadership (Coming Soon)

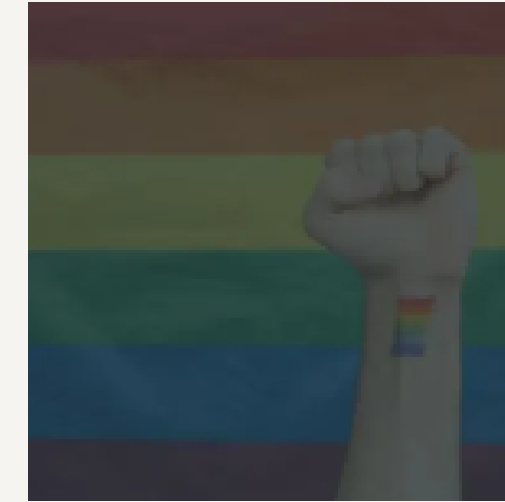
This course equips leaders with the essential skills to navigate interactions with individuals from diverse faith traditions. This course focuses on fostering sensitivity and respect for varying beliefs, affirming the uniqueness of each individual's faith journey. Our intention is to create competency for group facilitators to lead inclusively and create spaces where faith diversity is valued and understood.

We are excited to put this course together and will start working on it soon!



Faith informed Badge

[More About Badges](#)



Sex-Positive Spirituality (Coming Soon)

This course delves into the intersection of sexuality and spirituality within various faith traditions. This course aims to foster a sex-positive mindset, acknowledging that sexuality is a natural aspect of human existence. The materials are designed to reconcile and integrate sexuality and spirituality, creating a harmonious and inclusive understanding of these vital facets of human experience.



Healing Space Badge

[More About Badges](#)



**We are constantly
growing and
evolving!**

We now offer a directory of Queer Affirming Spiritual Directors

Spiritual Directors



[CoachableYou](#)

Name
Brendalyn Batchelor

Pronouns
(She/Her)

Director's Short Bio

Brendalyn brings warmth, down-to-earth genuineness, and a loving sense of humor to her work. Providing compassionate support from her heart as she supports you in overcoming challenges and transforming your life as you raise your consciousness.

Folx with Faith Badges

✚ Faith Informed 🧘 Healing Space



[Joni Lorraine](#)

Name
Joni Lorraine

Pronouns
(She/Her)

Director's Short Bio

Joni Lorraine is a Spiritual Director with a passion for joy, growth, and creativity. Her background is in chaplaincy, theatre, and photography and her focus is guiding people towards love, forgiveness, and wholeness.

Folx with Faith Badges

✚ Faith Informed 🧘 Accessibility 🌈 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice 🧑 Gender Inclusive



[Jere\(miah\) Farrell](#)

Name
Jere(miah) Farrell

Pronouns
(He/Him)

Director's Short Bio

Originally from Ireland. Former RC priest; former Hospice Interfaith Chaplain; Unity Minister. Married gay man.

Folx with Faith Badges

✚ Faith Informed 🧘 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice 🧑 Gender Inclusive 🧘 Healing Space

📍 228 Cambridge Court, California 95945, United States 1195.68 mi

Joni Lorraine

Badges

 Faith Informed  Accessibility  Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice  Gender Inclusive  Healing Space



ABOUT THIS SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Joni Lorraine is a multifaceted individual whose path has woven through the realms of spirituality, creativity, and social justice, which contributes to her work as a Spiritual Director. Her journey is marked by a deep commitment to joy, relational growth, self-awareness, and the flourishing of souls. With a background enriched by diverse interests including healthcare chaplaincy, live theatre, photography, and personal development, Joni brings a unique blend of creativity and spiritual insight to her work. Her philosophy centers on the transformative power of deep listening and connection, fostering an environment where barriers to self-expression are dismantled, paving the way for a rich experience of love, forgiveness, and unitive consciousness.

Joni's is the Project Coordinator for the Unity Worldwide Ministries Spiritual Direction Certification Program, which emphasizes mystical wisdom and the individual's authentic nature. Her educational foundation in spiritual direction was laid at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, earning a Master's in Spiritual Formation. An active member of the Austin Area Spiritual Directors Community and Spiritual Directors International, Joni's life outside her vocation is filled with gardening, cooking, and nurturing her aquatic pets in Cedar Park, TX. Her dedication to spiritual growth and community well-being positions her as a guiding light for those seeking inner peace and evolutionary spiritual consciousness.

Name

Joni Lorraine

Pronouns

(She/Her)

Website URL

<https://jonilorraine.com/>

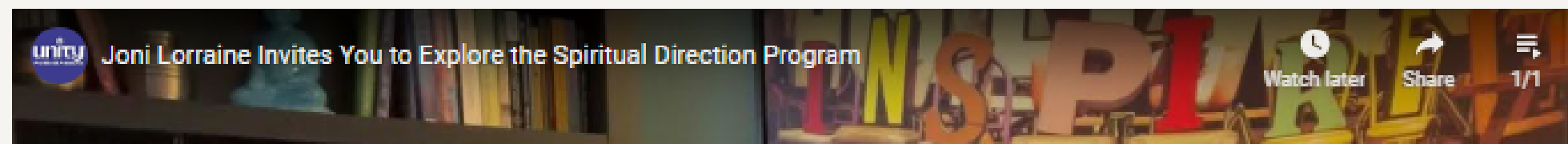
E-mail Address

joni@jonilorraine.com

Social Accounts



Video Message



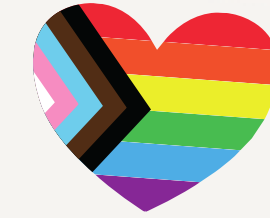


● **Sabrina Ellis Fund**

This scholarship provides financial support for trans individuals. This support can be applied to various crucial aspects of life including: Hormone Therapy, Surgery Costs, Mental Health Care, & Housing.



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e x p r e s s i o n s o f d i v i n e l o v e



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your hand.**



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Thank you!



www.folxwithfaith.org

