

Unitarian Universalist Community of Casper

1040 West 15th Street
Casper, WY 82604
uucasper.org
Admin@uucasper.org

October 1, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of the UU Community of Casper:

In 2005 this UU Community sought and received official designation as a Welcoming Congregation from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). This gave us a mandate to welcome lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, and queer persons of all ages into our congregation at all levels of congregational life.

This past spring, our congregation voted to renew this designation. In order to do so, we must take certain steps to show we sincerely express the aims of the UUA, and that we do provide authentic support for our LGBTQ members, friends and visitors.

One of the first steps in this process is to assess our past and current efforts in this area, so included here you will find an assessment form to complete and return to us. Your participation will give us important feedback to grow stronger in the future and to continue our Welcoming Congregation designation.

You can mail it back, give it to Rev. Leslie Kee or Athne Machdane, or drop it in the box in the foyer labeled for this purpose. We'd appreciate receiving it no later than Sunday, Oct. 15. An envelope is provided to insure your privacy is respected. Contact Leslie or Athne if you have questions or concerns, and thank you for your help with this.

Sincerely,

The UU Casper Social Justice Group

Contact information:

Rev. Leslie Kee: lkee@wyoming.com, 307-340-0697
Athne Machdane: athnemachdane@gmail.com, 307-724-0776

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF CASPER



WELCOMING CONGREGATION ASSESSMENT OF COMMITMENTS

Rate how well each of the following commitments describes your congregation. If you Strongly Disagree (1), the statement does not describe your congregation at all. If you Strongly Agree (5), the statement describes your congregation perfectly. Record your reasons for your rating in the space below each item. In some questions, you are asked to independently rate your work supporting lesbian/gay/bisexual/queer people and your work supporting transgender/gender non-conforming people.

	1 Strongly Disagree – 5 Strongly Agree					
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
1. Our congregation is inclusive and expressive of the concerns of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer at every level of congregational life—in worship, in program, and in social occasions—welcoming not only their presence but the unique gifts and particularities of their lives as well.						
a) Lesbian/gay/bisexual/queer						
b) Transgender/gender non-conforming people						
Reasons						
2. Our congregation does not assume anyone's affectional/sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Vocabulary of worship reflects this perception; worship celebrates diversity by inclusivity of language and content.						
Reasons						
3. Our congregation expresses understanding of, and incorporates the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gendered and queer persons at all levels of congregational life, from Religious Exploration to governance to worship.						
a) Lesbians/gay/bisexual/queer						
b) Transgender/gender non-conforming people						
Reasons						

	1 Strongly Disagree – 5 Strongly Agree					
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
4. The bylaws and other official documents of our congregation include an affirmation and nondiscrimination clause affecting all dimensions of congregational life, including membership, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals.						
Reasons						
5. Our congregation engages in outreach into lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, both through its advertising and by actively supporting other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer affirmative groups.						
a) Lesbian/gay/bisexuals outreach						
b) Transgender/gender non-conforming/queer outreach						
Reasons						
6. Our congregation offers congregational and ministerial support for services of union and memorial services for persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer, and celebrations of evolving definitions of family.						
a) Lesbian/gay/bisexuals outreach						
b) Transgender/gender non-conforming/queer outreach						
Reasons						
7. Our congregation celebrates the lives of all people and welcomes same-gender couples, recognizing their committed relationships, and equally affirms displays of caring and affection without regard for sexual orientation.						
Reasons						
8. Our congregation seeks to nurture ongoing dialogue between people of different affectional/sexual orientations and gender identities, and to create deeper trust and sharing.						
Reasons						

	1 Strongly Disagree – 5 Strongly Agree					
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
9. Our congregation affirms and celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues and history during the church year.						
Reasons						
10. Our congregation, as an advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, attends to legislative developments and works to promote justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society. It speaks out when the rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are at stake.						
a) Lesbians/gay/bisexual/queer advocates						
b) Transgender/gender non-conforming/queer advocates						
Reasons						
11. Our congregation celebrates the lives of all people and their ways of expressing their love for each other.						
Reasons						
12. We do not presume gender identity or expression, and encourage members to articulate their preferred personal pronouns.						
Reasons						

DEMOGRAPHICS

Please complete the following optional demographic questions to help understand the results we receive.

1. How would you describe your race or ethnicity? Pick one or more options.
 - White/Caucasian
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - African American
 - Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Native American
 - Multiracial

2. How would you describe your gender? Pick one or more options.
 - Female
 - Male
 - Cisgender
 - Transgender
 - Queer
 - Gender non-conforming

3. How would you describe your sexuality? Pick one or more options.
 - Straight/heterosexual
 - Gay
 - Lesbian
 - Bisexual
 - Queer

4. How would you describe your current congregational status? Pick only one.
 - Became a member in the last five years
 - Became a member six to ten years ago
 - Became a member more than ten years ago
 - Became a friend in the last five years
 - Became a friend six to ten years ago
 - Became a friend more than ten years ago
 - Former member
 - Youth
 - Not associated with the congregation

5. What is your generation? Dates are approximate, please choose the one option that feels most comfortable to you.
 - WWII Generation (b. 1901-1924)
 - Lucky Few/Silent Generation (b. 1925-1944)
 - Baby Boomer Generation (b. 1945-1965)
 - Generation X (b. 1965-1980)
 - Millennial Generation (b. 1981-2000)
 - Rising Generation (b. 2001-present)

General comments:

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT!

Please mail to UU Casper, 1040 W. 15th St, Casper, WY 82604, Attn: Social Justice Group, or place it in the box in the foyer. Questions? Contact Leslie Kee: lkee@wyoming.com, 307-340-0697, or Athne Machdane: athnemachdane@gmail.com, 307-724-0776.