

ALIVE Ministry - Minutes & Actions from our July 10th meeting

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ALIVE: Affirming the LGBT+ community in an Inclusive, Valuing Environment

In attendance on July 10th: Alana Florio, Jules Valencia Banks, Graham Yearley, Charlotte Grahe, Sue Woodman, Maureen Daly, Peggy McMillan, Father Ray

- The meeting opened the group reciting together our opening prayer followed by Alana reading our confidentiality statement.
- We discussed briefly feedback from the PRIDE parade and other PRIDE events. St. Vs had 10 parishioners who participated in the PRIDE Parade marching with FCBWP who totaled about 200 marchers. Comments were that the Parade was very well organized, and we marched earlier than in previous years. Parade viewers cheered loudly when they saw members of the Catholic Church marching. Maureen and Peggy represented us on the Sunday event at Druid Hill Park where we were located under the FCBWP tent.
 1. Sue Woodman attended the LEAD Ministry sponsored Stonewall Uprising documentary viewing. **Sue will reach out to Mary Ritter from LEAD** to get the contact info of a woman named Nicole who Sue met, needed so guidance and may be interested in joining ALIVE.
 2. **Jules will provide Alana** via Google drive all the ALIVE related photos she has that Ned took at our June 2nd Parish announcement celebration and also any PRIDE events. **Alana will work with Colleen** to get a select few if these photos on our website and possibly in the e-newsletter.
 3. **Maureen** will see that all PRIDE related items (St. Vs sign, t-shirts et) are stored for next year's event with Ryan at FCBWP
- Father Ray requested time to share some of his thoughts on the 31-page document "Male and Female He Created Them" published on June 10 by the Congregation for Catholic Education. There was intentionally limited discussion on this document among ALIVE members since this is an emotional

topic and we had other important agenda items already planned for this meeting. As a follow up to his sharing with us, **Father Ray agreed would put some of notes and thoughts down on paper and provide them the ALIVE group.**

- We reviewed the ALIVE charter and agreed on a small update to the mission statement to spell out LGBT as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender to emphasize our support and inclusion of transgender individuals. **Alana** will update our charter document and ensure our website is updated. (revised charter attached).

- We spent the rest of the meeting reviewing and prioritizing future ALIVE activities and events:

1. Ongoing activity: Attend group meetings & events of other similar Catholic LGBT+ welcoming ministries in the Baltimore area. **Alana** will develop a consolidated list of the various ministries (those already established and those in process of forming or have interest) and a schedule of when they regularly meet and other activities/events they have planned. **Alana will generate an email signup sheet** so one or two members of ALIVE can agree to cover specific meetings/events when possible.

2. August 18 or 25: Arrange a day drip to attend a DignityUSA Mass held on Sundays, 6:00 p.m., St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (1820 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC). **Maureen** will confirm when Father Peter Daly is leading the service. (**Alana/Graham will organize**) More info at: <http://www.dignitywashington.org/mass-on-sunday/mass/>

3. September 18 or 25: Movie & Pizza night in September. **Peggy** will provide a list of possible movies we can choose from as well as confirm any conflict with other St. Vs events that may be scheduled on these dates. We want to select if possible, a short movie so there will be time for a brief discussion following the movie. (**Need someone to lead to organizing this event**)

4. October 23: "A Night of Sharing". Invite the speakers from the LGBT Workshop March Social Ministry Convocation to share their stories with our congregation and others with whom we are beginning to network. October also happens to be National Coming Out Month. This must be coordinated with the Education & Enrichment Committee to avoid conflict with other planned activities (**Alana**).

5. Q1 2020: Arrange a meeting that would include representatives of other parish LGBT ministries to discuss the James Alison article: "Toward Global Inclusion of LGBT People Within the Catholic Communities: A new theological approach". Reach out to Goucher College, Hopkins University, Towson University, Loyola, Notre Dame of Maryland University LGBT groups for participation. **(Peggy)**

6. TBD, Awaiting AB Lori's response: Invite Archbishop Lori and a few representatives of LGBT ministries in our Archdiocese to a dinner we would sponsor for open dialog and understanding. **Ryan** is awaiting a response from AB Lori from an invitation he sent in a recent letter.

Other ideas from previous meetings:

- Schedule forums for further understanding of LGBT stories and spiritual needs.
- "Night of Song & Prayer": Alana and Graham with St. V's Choir/Music group and other musical groups & talents from other supportive parishes.
- Invite Speakers from Dignity, BCFWP, New Ways Ministry etc.
- Annual Retreats

Thanks,

Alana

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