



A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

February 2019

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

And so it has begun: Texas House Bill 1035 has been filed. It is an Act that would prevent government from taking action against any church, organization, business, etc. which discriminates based on their "sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions" that "(1) marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman; and (2) the terms 'male,' 'man,' 'female,' and 'woman' refer to an individual's immutable biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics at the time of birth." In other words, it protects anyone who discriminates against same-sex couples and transgender people.

Please don't keep silent. Let your voice be heard. Contact the governor and your local representatives about this bill. It's as easy as a single click. Equality Texas provides the text of the email and sends it to the appropriate person with your contact information. You can do it simply by [clicking here](#). I did.

Peace and blessings,
Charley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a tentative list of upcoming church activities and community events. Contact the church for a confirmation of the calendar.

Weekly Events:

- **Central Texas MCC Worship** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Live and Let Live AA Group** (4209 N. 27th St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
- **Writers Workshop** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Wednesdays, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 27 – Membership Class, Part 1. Stick around for a sandwich lunch and membership class facilitated by Pastor Charley.

Sunday, January 27 – RSICCTE Election. Vote for your choice of monarch candidates for next year's reign. Voting will take place in the Social Hall after worship.

Sunday, January 27 – World Religion Day. Interfaith panel and audience discussion on evil will take place at the Providence Hospital Pavilion at 3PM.

Saturday, February 2 – Women’s HIV Support Group will take place at 11AM in the church’s Social Hall. Following the meeting, they enjoy a volunteer-prepared home-cooked lunch.

Sunday, February 3 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, February 3 – Membership Class, Part 2. Stick around for a sandwich lunch and membership class facilitated by Pastor Charley.

Sunday, February 10 – Monthly Potluck Social will take place after worship in the Social Hall. Good food, good fellowship

Tuesday, February 19 – HIV Support Group at 6PM in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Saturday, February 2 – Transgender Support Group at 6PM in the church’s Social Hall.

Saturday, February 16 – Transgender Support Group at 6PM in the church’s Social Hall.

Sunday, February 17 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, February 17 – Immigrant and Refugee Forum. Hope Mustakim , Director of Waco Immigrants Alliance, will join us for an after-worship conversation that will explore how we, as individuals and/or a church, can minister to refugees and immigrants. A sandwich lunch will be included.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people, who join us for worship, have birthdays this month. If you have corrections or additions to the birthday list, please call the office at 752-5331 or email us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Valerie Golston – February 4

Michael Dionne – February 13

Cameron Talley – February 25

Suzanne Menuet – February 27

The Written Word



A bill that would legalize discrimination against same-sex couples and transgender people was filed Wednesday, January 23. In times like these we need the support of each other and the reminder to live our lives authentically and to not be afraid. We need words like these, penned by Linda Prichard.

Unafraid

Two hands seeking
to unite openly
in a dance of love,
unafraid.

Two hearts free
to feel the lover’s bliss,
the melding of two lives,
unafraid.

Two pairs of lips wanting
to place their token
of the heart’s affection,
unafraid.

Two eyes longing
to gaze fondly into another's
anytime and place,
unafraid.

Two voices rising
in song, longing to share
it with the world,
unafraid.

Two lives, love hidden,
knowing some will say
their love is wrong,
afraid.

Two people together,
against the odds,
still wanting to belong,
unafraid.

Linda Miller Prichard

From the Lay Delegate



Lay Delegate CJ Myers reports that "the nominating committee updated us January 8 on the process for selecting our next moderator. We are at the middle of this process with recruitment of qualified leaders. We have 4 nominations with 1 individual submitting credentials. All nominees will submit their credentials by January 30. Their next step is to interview and send forth a list by March 1."

Membership Class



Join the Pastor after worship in the Social Hall for a sandwich lunch and the first of a two-part membership class on **Sunday, January 27** (the second class will take place on **Sunday, February 3**). This is for you...

- if you are interested in becoming a member of Central Texas MCC;
- if you aren't ready to become a member, but are interested in knowing more about Central Texas MCC; or
- if you would like a "refresher course" on who we are and what we are about.

World Religion Day



Check out the panel and audience discussion about the different religions' perspectives of evil, sponsored by Greater Waco Interfaith Conference at the Providence Hospital Pavilion on **Sunday, January 27** at 3PM.

Vote for RSICCTE Monarchs



The Royal, Sovereign, Imperial Court of the Central Texas Empire is a group of hardworking folks dedicated to supporting various local charities. Our church and the church's Red Door Pantry, which serves the HIV population of Waco and the surrounding area, are two of those charities. Voting for the next reign's monarchs will take place at Central Texas MCC on **Sunday, January 27** from noon until 5PM. You must show proof of residency.

Dine Out



Waco Pride Network invites you to the first Dine OUT gathering of the year! Connect with friends, while enjoying good food! Dine OUT will take place at Rosa's Café (4200 Franklin Ave.) on **Wednesday, February 13**, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Immigrant and Refugee Forum



Join us after worship on **Sunday, February 17** for a conversation that will explore how we as individuals and/or a church can minister to refugees and immigrants. Special guest, Hope Mustakim, Director of the Waco Immigrants Alliance will join us in the discussion which will take place after worship along with a sandwich lunch.