

Discerning Open and Affirming: A Lenten Study

During the season of Lent, we invite you to participate in a discernment process through small groups, Brown Bag Bible Bunch, or Digging Deeper on Sunday morning. The focus of this discussion will be whether our church should officially adopt an Open and Affirming or Welcoming statements specifically related to LGBTQ+ individuals.

Previously in the identification of our six priorities, the Board charged a new Welcome All committee with exploring a process to discern whether this congregation should work toward an Open and Affirming designation. We have been studying how best to discuss to engage in this process, to have open dialogue, and to listen to God and to one another. It's very important to point out that no decisions have been made – this is truly a congregation decision to consider after going through this discernment process of study, discussion, reflection, and prayer. Through this series, we will create space for God's working in our lives, and make ourselves available as he is working through and among us. Together we hope to have a shared sense of God's desire for our church. We are opening ourselves to discern his call for us.

If you are not already part of a small group and would like to participate, please sign up at the Info Desk on a Sunday or contact Holly Irvin at hirvin@blmfcc.org. In addition, you could join the Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Bunch or the Sunday Digging Deeper meetings.

If you have questions about why we are doing this, or what to expect, you can reach out to anyone on the committee – Susan Cleaver, Doug Reed, Martin Ross, Madonna Courtright, Marla McElroy, and Libby Nussbaum.