



Strategic Planning Task Force Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) Round Table

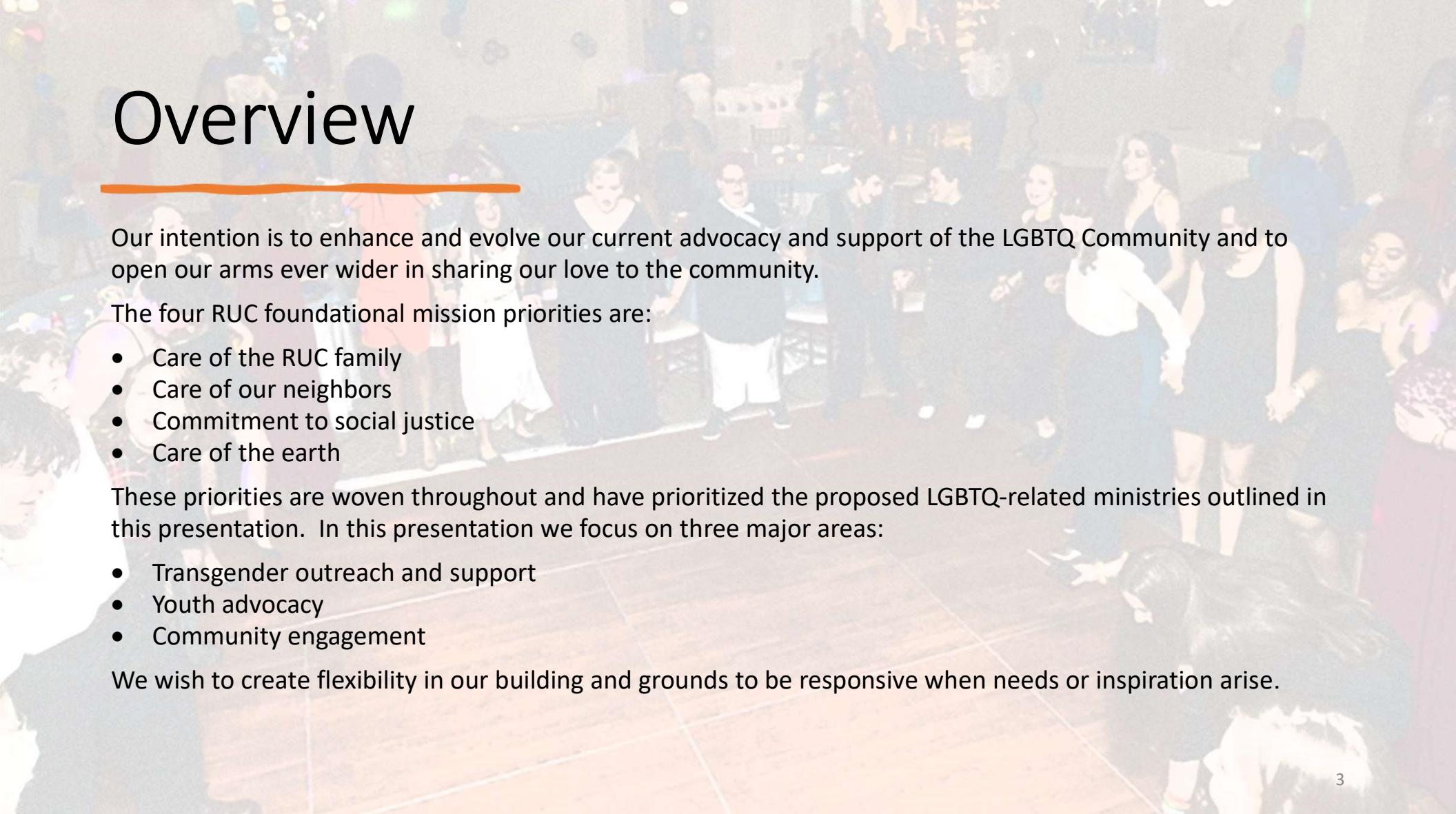
February 28, 2021

Vision for LGBTQ

As members and friends of an Open and Affirming, More Light congregation called by God to love one another, we strive through advocacy, education, words, visible signs and actions to welcome all into a place of sanctuary and community celebrating differences in sexual orientation and gender identity. Building upon our fundamental efforts, we wish to open our arms ever wider.



Overview



Our intention is to enhance and evolve our current advocacy and support of the LGBTQ Community and to open our arms ever wider in sharing our love to the community.

The four RUC foundational mission priorities are:

- Care of the RUC family
- Care of our neighbors
- Commitment to social justice
- Care of the earth

These priorities are woven throughout and have prioritized the proposed LGBTQ-related ministries outlined in this presentation. In this presentation we focus on three major areas:

- Transgender outreach and support
- Youth advocacy
- Community engagement

We wish to create flexibility in our building and grounds to be responsive when needs or inspiration arise.

Transgender Outreach and Support

Develop and implement action plan for a welcoming environment:

- Further our own congregational understanding and awareness.
- Provide safe spaces for LGBTQ community.
- Write preferred pronouns on nametags and Zoom names.
- Use written and spoken language in liturgy, website, and elsewhere that is non-binary gender neutral.



Youth Advocacy

- Support MoCo LGBTQ Teen Forum with the Pride Prom and other activities.
- Explore feasibility of creating or supporting a drop-In center and/or transitional house for teenagers and young adults with community partners (e.g. SMYAL, MoCo Reconnect, Community Reach).





Community Engagement

- Work with Community Reach:
 - Provide sensitivity training to staff on preferred vocabulary and practices for LGBTQ clients.
 - Support naming a member of the LGBTQ community to the Community Reach Board.
- Participate in community parades and festivals.
- Provide LGBTQ sensitivity training to teachers in the Montgomery County Public Schools.
- Partner with Montgomery County Police Department to combat hate/bias incidents against the LGBTQ community.
- Host the area NOH8 Campaign photoshoot.