



Roadmap for the RPC Dialogue & Discernment Process Re Same-Sex Covenant Relationships/Marriage

We spent about 16 months addressing the question below as a community of Jesus-followers. We celebrate the respectful and loving conversations we had in many contexts – personal interactions, Grow Class discussions, Small Group meetings, Congregational Meetings. Below is a summary of our process.

Focus Question:

How can the response of Reba Place Church to the presence of same-sex attraction in ourselves and others best reflect God’s Good News as proclaimed by Jesus?

Goals:

1. To understand the issues and evidence that relate to our focus question from Scripture, our Christian tradition, our own and other’s personal experiences, and reason/current science
2. To discern and dialogue together in a manner that reflects the Great Commandments of loving God and loving people, and that exemplifies RPC’s core values of being Real (authenticity), practicing Peacemaking that transforms both our hearts and the world, and building Community
3. To discern together by prayer and study and listening to God and one another, an answer to our focus question

*Give all a hearing...
Listen before we answer.*
John 7:51
Proverbs 18:13

Speak the truth in love.
Ephesians 4:15

*Maintain the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of
peace.*
Ephesians 4:3

Process and Timeline:

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>September-November 2017</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview ▪ Small Group Sharing ▪ Hear Personal Stories ▪ Hear about the RPF Dialogue ▪ Individual and Small Group Study using recommended resources ▪ Congregational Large Group Meeting to hear from author Tim Otto & one another 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>December 2017</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We took a break for Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>January 2018</i></p> <p>Thinking about how we interpret the Bible with sermons by Joseph Marshak, John Cook, and David Janzen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lent 2018</i></p> <p>Considering specific Biblical texts featuring the scholarship of Loren Johns, Wesley Hill, and Matthew Vines. Personal story from Dave Jackson.</p> <p>Congregational Circle Discussion about the Bible and our thoughts so far</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>April 2018</i></p> <p>Pause to think about <i>how we think and how culture influences our moral decision-making</i>. Book study Grow Class on <i>The Righteous Mind</i> with sermons reflecting on some of the same themes from the Bible.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>April 29, 2018</i></p> <p>Panel Presentation about the experience of 4 LGBTQ Christians with the church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">May-June 2018</p> <p>Small Group reflection to give input to Dialogue Leadership Team</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>June 2018</i></p> <p>Congregational Service of Lament & Prayer... for the pain inflicted on LGBTQ folks by Christians/the church, and prayer for the season of decision-making</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>June-July 2018</i></p> <p>Congregational survey and feedback solicited from Small Groups</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>August - September 2018</i></p> <p>A 3-person writing team, in consultation with RPC Leadership, drafted a proposal. At a Congregational Meeting, a few edits were made and then moved to voting. The modified proposal was affirmed by 96+% of members who voted.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>October to end 2018</i></p> <p>We reported our decision to denominational leaders. We held an Aftercare Mtg and celebration.</p>

Decision Rule: A 75% affirmative vote by RPC members is required by our bylaws to adopt any proposal which includes changes to doctrine or affiliation or anything considered of major importance.

The Dialogue Leadership Team:

Charlotte Lehman, Pastor
Carol Youngquist, Leadership Team

John Cook, Trustee
Anne Stewart, Trustee

Mary Kay Conley, Member

The Listening Team:

Shari Iverson, Member; Steve Leib, Member

Prayer Team Leaders:

David Lukens, Member; Penny Lukens, Member

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