



## 2019-20 Report to The Presbytery of Southern New England

Presbyterian Promise is twenty + years into the adventure of advocating for equality and welcome. In the context of the church, we feel encouraged and confident. We are doing many things very well, and we are eager to find creative new ways to continue our work. We rejoice that we can offer you ways to join us in the effort to assure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer persons feel truly welcome in our churches.

Here is a summary of Presbyterian Promise' activity during the past year:

- We partnered to sponsor an Open Space at the November 16 Presbytery meeting. The Open Space was inspired by the 2018 General Assembly's approval of a Commissioners' "Suicide Prevention Resolution," which urged the PC (USA) to "Encourage the leadership of each congregation to acknowledge the challenges caused by suicide deaths by addressing them in prayers, sermons, educational events, and conversations." We developed the presentation with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and Rev. John Sandel. It was crowded and very well received. Presbyterian Promise encourages our Presbytery to begin a conversation about suicide and suicide prevention, with special focus on the vulnerability of LGBTQ youth in our congregations.
- We developed a new logo and look. When we began, LGBTQ people were off center, just coming into focus. As PC USA polity developed, the focus had shifted. We wanted a look that was both Christian and widely recognizable.
- We strengthened our display of resources at Pride events from June through September. This year we tabled at Norwalk in Fairfield County, Providence, Hartford and, for the first time, New Haven. We were pleased to welcome more clergy for our delegation this year enhancing our ability to offer worthwhile resources and supportive, welcoming conversation.
- It has become a tradition: we tabled at the March 2019 True Colors Conference for LGBTQ+ youth. Our library/resource display has become very popular at Pride festivals and True Colors and we are working on a new, expanded, and fresh resource guide for the coming year' events. This year, True Colors will be a virtual event on May 22-23. While we wish we could be there in person, it will be worth checking out and you won't even have to spend time driving to Storrs!

Dick Hasbany and Keith Rhoden, Co-moderators