

LGBTQIA+ WORK GROUP 2019-2020

Activities during the year:

- The group rejuvenated Judson's involvement in the Twin Cities Pride Festival by co-hosting a festival booth with University Baptist Church. Approximately 25 Judson members volunteered at the booth during the two-day festival.
- The group hosted two adult education hours, providing representatives who shared information on Clare Housing and the Aliveness Project.
 - Clare Housing uses affordable supportive housing to create a home, health, and hope for over 280 people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS every day.
 - The Aliveness Project is a Judson neighbor, located at 3808 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis. The Aliveness Project was founded as a community center for and driven by people living with HIV. For over 30 years, they have been facilitating connections to the community, offering nutrition and wellness services, and linking their members to resources to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.
- The group engaged the Judson congregation in donating quarters and "making change for Clare Housing". Many of Clare Housing's residents live on less than \$90 of spending cash a month after expenses. That can mean making tough choices about how they are going to spend their money. So often, washing the clothes falls down the list of priorities. All the monies collected went directly to residents to help offset the cost of doing their laundry.
- The group secured funding to replace the flags on the outside of the church. Several LGBTQIA themed books were donated to the library. Cindy Clague, Joyce Nolen and Rich Olson provided personal reflections related to their experiences.
- The group enthusiastically celebrated Rich Olson's commissioning as Judson's Welcoming and Affirming Minister.
- A t-shirt contest is being developed to encourage the design of a Judson LGBTQIA+ t-shirt.
- The group continues to explore ways to extend Judson's reputation in the community as a welcoming and affirming congregation.