

# Congregation summaries of three-church partners

## **SPIRIT OF STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Spirit of St. Stephen's Catholic Community is an intentional Eucharistic community, rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and inspired by the Gospel. Our justice work currently includes Sanctuary and Resistance, Loaves and Fishes, preserving the Earth, getting out the vote, and learning to be anti-racist. We are Catholic in tradition and culture but independent of the Roman Church.

All our efforts—liturgy, sacraments, education—are the result of team work and lay leadership. We believe fully in the anointing of our baptism, as “priest, prophet, and liberator” and so call upon the wisdom of the community for leadership in every area. We affirm and welcome each member of the Body of Christ, inviting them to bring their whole being with their unique identity of gender, age, ability, and orientation as we walk together, seekers on a spiritual path.

An elected Community Council, Prayer Leaders, Community Life Coordinator, and Families and Children Coordinator organize the efforts of the committees along with the requests of the community to move our mission of peace with justice forward in the world.

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## **LAKE NOKOMIS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church has been deeply rooted in South Minneapolis for over 100 years and continues to grow into our call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Extravagant welcome and God's unconditional grace are at the center of our life together. We're invested in this community, and are part of the larger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, our LGBTQIA+ siblings are welcomed into our shared journey.

LNL members surround each other with love and care through a variety of programs. We're passionate about nurturing the young people in our faith community and creating opportunities for them to be the church. We are actively involved with efforts to address food insecurity, the lack of affordable housing, and ways to impact racial injustice.

An elected Church Council, new Senior Pastor, and Director of Faith Formation provide direction and support for lay leaders.

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## **LIVING TABLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Living Table is a compassionate community drawn together in Christ to embody love, seek justice, and invite healing. We seek to follow the radical teachings of Jesus that focus on liberation and justice for all peoples. We have diverse perspectives on who Jesus is and was, but we are committed to exemplifying the love of neighbor and self that he taught.

As the offspring of Spirit of the Lakes and Minnehaha UCC, we carry forth Spirit's legacy as the first LGBTQ church to join a mainstream denomination and Minnehaha's progressive 108-year-old witness in Minneapolis. We are in covenant with the United Church of Christ.

Our desire is to be a spiritual community that provides a safe place for people of conscience to worship, live in truth, question and seek, challenge the status quo, find wholeness and become more fully alive. We seek to be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with persons of all backgrounds, incomes, health challenges, gender identities and sexual orientations. We strive to be anti-racist, actively support food and housing services, and seek peace through justice for all people. We believe that God's love is unconditional and that all people have a place at God's table.

Whether you are young or old, gay or straight, single or partnered, happy or sad, confused or inspired, street smart or college-educated, can't pay your bills or have more than enough to share, conservative or liberal, questioning or believing . . . no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited to journey with us!