

# People's UCC Fargo Plays Important Role in Providing Ministry to the LGBTQ+ Community

**By Scott Webster**

**Lay Minister, People's UCC Fargo**

Over the past few years, one church has been focused on providing a voice for the LGBTQ+ community of Fargo/Moorhead and has been a strong ally for that community. Thanks to a grant from the Northern Plains Conference of the UCC, People's United Church of Christ has had the means to make a big impact.

Founded 5 years ago under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Grace Morton, a handful of members decided to organize a church where all people have a voice, and although physically they are a limited congregation, they have found a much wider niche in ministry through the use of Zoom and Facebook Live streaming.

This handful of members has been active in providing a voice and a safe zone for the LGBTQ+ community in Fargo/Moorhead ever since. They have been a continuous support as an ally through participating in events such as the F-M Pride in the Park, F-M Interfaith Pride Community Services, Pride parade, numerous drag show and entertainment venues, and by sponsoring family friendly events where all are welcome.

Thanks to receiving a grant from the conference, the members of this church without physical walls have had the resources to buy audio / visual equipment for a mobile ministry, provide family friendly venues such as the Gospel Drag Festivals and Family Movie Nights, and hold services in the park where everyone is welcome.

Locally there are only a few members, however, there is an equal number or greater online presence that consider People's their home. The move to an online aspect of the ministry started even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

The members agree that People's is a progressive congregation geared toward a hybrid generation of church goers. Thanks to the support of the NPC Mission and Outreach Committee, People's has found the ability to reach a community they otherwise would not be able to include in their church family.

The leadership of People's also facilitates a weekly Bible study at the Cass County Housing Authority for residents every Wednesday afternoon.

Through the generosity of the grant, this past year the church has been able to purchase a storage cabinet, wired and wireless microphones, stands, a portable rechargeable powered amplifier speaker, a smart OBSBOT AI camera for recording, a sound mixer board, and a digital sound card for streaming services. They have also been able to purchase prizes to hand out at Pride events, rent appropriate venues for their community outreach services, purchase new signage and publication materials for the church, and acquire the appropriate licenses for live streaming services, and pay the fees necessary for the family friendly events held by the organization.

The members of this mighty but small congregation look forward to the opportunities that will arise in the new year to come.



Rev. Grace Morton leads Sunday worship service at People's UCC studio location within the FMCT educational spaces in Moorhead Center Mall.



2021-2022

**Pride in the Park and LGBTQ+ Ally**



**Everyone Deserves Their Voice to be Heard**



**Gospel Drag Festivals for All Ages**



**Bible Studies and Services for the Community over Facebook Live and In-Person**

**Family Movie Nights for All Ages**



**Outdoor Worship Services in the Park Open to the Community**

# People's UCC Fargo Community Outreach Events





**People's  
UCC  
Fargo**



**Phase II Equipment Upgrade  
for the Studio Space**

# people's WCC Fargo

Gospel Drag Festival  
3-1-22

