



Proposal for Chapel of the Beloved Community

In recent years our community has been grieving, not only individual losses, but an entire generation. The grief over the loss of Al Blanco, is emblematic of this deeper, broader grief. We feel that there's a pastoral need for a collective acknowledgment of these members and all that they represented and contributed during their years as members of First Unitarian.

To acknowledge this grief and honor the members we've lost, we've come up with a plan based partly on an idea from longtime member, Kathy Ivans. It has two parts:

- Create a Remembrance Book of photos and bios of long-time members who have died in the last ten years or so. It will be a beautiful book, with the kind of binding that allows for new pages to be added.
- Create a "home" for this book: The side-aisle chapel currently known as the "peace chapel" would be officially named "The Chapel of Beloved Community" (labeled with a plaque) and the Remembrance Book would live on a stand in that chapel. Someone may light a special candle by the Book each week in remembrance of those in its pages.

The staff has discussed this at length and we are willing to spearhead the project with help from members of the congregation. The Women's Leadership Alliance board has endorsed the idea and they may help with some funding. We have reached out to the Deacons for their support, as well as they are, to a significant degree, the keepers of our history. We'll be presenting this concept at the congregational meeting coming up on February 16 and seeking the blessing of the congregation.

February 2, 2020