

Discussion #1: How does your faith call you to love your neighbor?

- Putting My Faith Into Action by serving the least of them – serving women/girls – sex trafficking
- Walk a mile in the other persons shoes
- empathize with the rejected for religious reasons
- “understanding my neighbors circumstances – homelessness/children/hunger
- Loving those who are “different” than me/you
- Help with basic needs – “willing” to listen and respond – unselfishness
- Cast out all fear
- All voices are important and deserve to be heard
- seek understanding – be open to the difficult work
- Not becoming “the enemy”
- acting in kindness & love always
- Be open to conversations
- Be loving even if you disagree
- ...the greatest of these is love
- Love of self first
- silence to listen
- Knowing Christ
- apologizing when wrong
- community relationships & listening
- generosity of/to strangers
- treat others the way they want to be treated. – Ask.
- People want to be heard
- Realizing we are all the same – we are children of God
- Love of theology
- Value all equally – whether other race, nationality, gender identity
- service
- physically welcoming others into our buildings (rentals, etc.)
- Advocacy – act of faith and love – immigrants, environment, homeless, etc.
- Deal with others fear (perfect love casts out fear)
- How do you love politicians you don't like?
- How to love the people hurt by changes that politicians we don't like are making?
- Using the gifts you have to act locally
- Earn the right to disagree by loving
- Show up. Keep showing up. Show up at unexpected places.
- Take time to introduce ourselves, and get to know our neighbors.
- make time. Do the work.
- Stop. Look. Listen. Change up your viewfinder.
- Share music with the sick & dying...also talk with them...listen to them...
- Visiting with residents at Abernathy Laurels and an indigent person (poor materially)
- sharing and reaching out to family who are far away
- realizing we walk on sacred ground of those who came before us...
- Being accommodating to others who are trying to pursue their “calls” in life...

- Reaching out to others in their struggles by being in touch with our own struggles...
- Engage people based on the gifts they bring to the table...not their “rough edges”
- Who is our neighbor:
 - Everyone
 - People like only
 - Abraham studies
 - anyone who has a need that I can respond to
 - Person who has something to offer “me”
 - Those who don’t say they need a neighbor
 - No exclusions
 - Anyone comfortable with
 - We can love people without them being part of our inner circle
- Really love people and do our best for them
- responding to others’ needs
- driving for others
- evaluate our finances and the charitable requests – making sure your funds are used wisely.
- Asking why? Why do we need to have charities in a country of abundance? Why do we have the problem?
- How to encourage independence in people.
 - e.g. Exodus Homes
 - letting people know legal rights – training
- Listening
- Pray for neighbor
- Listen
- Welcome
- Ask?
- Listen to each other
- Be authentic in response
 - respectful
 - integrity
- My table vs Our table
- Grow
- Add leaves to the table
- just do it
- act
- find connection
- less judgment
- Look beyond political opinion
- be blind to color – prejudices
- be willing to confront our prejudices
- avoid polarization
- moving beyond “comfort zones”
- become “sanctuary church”
- remember our caring, loving values
- come to terms with being equal!
- forgive!!

Discussion #2: Practices for loving your neighbor in wider community, WNCA, world

- Provide sanctuary
- getting to know people
- stepping out of comfort zones
- become “open & affirming”
- working with families & education within the congregation
- reaching out to students/reading
- just reach out & love unconditionally
- educate about environmental justice issues
- promote voter registration
- reach out to neighborhood children/fill needs
- share to military families & homeless
- feeding/dinners/fellowship
- Room at the Inn – homeless – changed opinions re homelessness.
- distributing bags to homeless – empowering people who are unsure – cultivate youth in programs of assistance
- Meal services to community
- family/friends day – random visitation to church area – publicize services of church
- intentional emphasis on welcome at beginning of worship
- sanctuary churches
- mission trips
- services to homeless children & foster children
- services to persons aging out of foster care
- partnering with other churches, groups, to accomplish change
- educating congregations, especially young people
- Offer sanctuary
- 2 church in same building – separate and blended services
- show love to the wider community
 - backpack
 - \$
 - food
 - “love month”
 - snacks for soldiers
 - 5 for 5
 - Saturday soup kitchen
 - community social ministries
- Widening the circle
- opening church for weddings – marriage equality
- putting shower and washer/dryer in church
- hosting program for latch-key
- emergency bags for people who are homeless
- reaching out to other UCC churches
- Bible study for inter-church
- coming to the table
- listening
- narrow gate – working with others with vastly different theologies
- small group meetings
- asking a lot of questions

- looking at our resources – what’s available
- discussing the answers to the questions until you find consensus
- a lot of prayer
- recognizing and using our variety of gifts
- respecting everyone’s opinions and feelings
- Widening the circle
- promote interracial and interfaith worship experiences and fellowship
- hold seminars on relevant topics for community i.e. racism, immigration, LGBT, and inclusion
- learn to see people through the eyes of God and take action for justice
- focus on children to spread love and justice.
- Model to children. They are future.
- better together than apart
- fostering interfaith dialogue & relationships
- Provide shelter & housing (addressing chronic homelessness)
- provide space for community & self-help groups
- Collaborating with area churches to provide: tutoring, community services/resources, hot meals, necessary health products, food, etc.
- LOVE!
- Providing and delivering meals to children when they aren’t in school/summer
- OCWM – Our Church’s Wider Mission
- Blankets – disaster relief
- socks for needy
- cards for military
- soldiers of cross – helping retired ministers
- Farm café – pay what you can restaurant
- learning opportunities for youth in community
- Corner table in Newton
- safe spaces for youth discussion
- “first families” (help with social services)
- meals on wheels
- coats collection
- angel trees
- F.A.R.M. Café – Boone
- Western Watauga Food Network
- Johns River Mission Trips
- Face to Face volunteerism
- Rooms in the Inn – Women’s Housing
- Family Promise
- Children’s Council Support Group
- 1st Church Endowment (foundation of Carolinas)
- Legacy gifts
- Handicap accessible
- “Out in High Country” – “Out Right Youth”
- LINC (Thrift Store)
- Thrift shop
- Joe’s café
- Support foster children & their families

- support for homeless families
- support for unemployed (tri-cities)
- Ex-offender support (Exodus)
- Nursing Homes
- Do more giving
- be kind. show more love. listen.
- Help carry the weight
- Free pancake breakfast monthly and free evening meal to all who come. Sit with them and get acquainted.
- Food boxes
- give to homeless shelters
- provide shelter
- food insecurity outreach
- baskets for sick and shut in.
- ice cream social for community.
- W. I. S. E. (Welcoming. Inclusive. Supportive. Engaged) Congregation
- Self-care groups for congregation
- John's River Camp Outreach – financially support
- F.A.R.M. Café (feed all regardless of means)
- Open & Affirming congregation
- Love your own family with their needs – care taking.
- offer a helping hand. Visits
- roll up your sleeves to work and be open to discuss conflict and needs
- Welcome everyone. Accept people as they are.
- Leased part of church to African American group to function as church for them
- clothing facility for under privileged
- organized Laotian church. Finance their mission to Thailand & Laos.
- Provide free Saturday lunch for 3 months seeking to reach homeless.
- "Room in the Inn" Provide shelter for homeless during winter months.
- provide support for Title 1
- Involvement w/ racial justice group
- sanctuary supporting church
- Christian-Muslim group
- Build a bigger table
- open & affirming ministry
- prison ministries
- overseas ministries
- local church partnerships across traditions for broader ministries
- participate with Christ – "get to" vs. "have to"
- Ministry across diversity
- Build relationships with those who think differently
- The practices of "keeping it shut" and curiosity

Discussion #3: Practices for loving neighbors as yourself in Your Community — Your church's practice to love our neighbors? Partnering/ collaborating in our community?

- Working with Elon Homes – foster care
- UMC backpack ministries
- UCC Charlotte – college students in need – job interviews/clothes
- LINK – missions trips/thrift store/welcome kits for prisoners
- soup kitchen – meals
- household goods for families that have been burned out
- collect canned goods/soup kitchen
- send funds to prisoners at Christmas
- families first – support
- overflow shelter for winter months
- environmental justice issues
- Room in the Inn – house homeless
- Interfaith council in city (Jewish, Muslim, Christian)
- Congregations collaborate to centralize services to meet the needs more efficiently
- Get to know one another, connect and be involved together in outreach ministry
- support members in their activities in the community
- dinner/discussion groups, small, big brunch
- mission moments in services and big brunch for community awareness and be involved in those agencies, etc.
- building & grounds used for community needs – ministry of hospitality & integrated services, etc.
- Dreaming about collaborating and growing ministry and opportunities for mental health
- lent services around ministries and outreach
- W.I.S.E.
- Action → show love.
- Being able to collaborate
- being able to approach one another with understanding for what we can offer one another in our church and community
- being able to love, have patience, and be humble with each other
- be able to listen without speaking
- you have to know you neighbor.
- being able to help those in need
- approach other like minded groups/agencies
- Imagination station
- Establishment of more sanctuary churches
- community meals by churches – Lord provides
- Thanksgiving – Friends for Life
- Children's Models – teaching languages
- Exhibiting love
- Building spiritual leaders
- "Pay it forward
- Demonstrate a Giving Spirit
- More Souls in Heaven
- Realize our responsibility – challenges
- Welcome with: kindness, smiles, listen, helpful, talk with them

- Show love to elderly
- Communication from church
- Being the hands and feet of Christ in community. We will be welcoming to others who believe differently (seekers)
- Fear – finance – giving up something – sacrifices
- Effective communication
- Stop say “it’s mine”
- Identify diversity – look for ways to interact
- we (UCC) need to feel united as a church!
- Finding ways to get to know your neighbor
- interest in our neighbors
- helping hands for those in need
- Involvement with youth organizations – joint fundraisers
- Trunk or treat
- blood mobile
- Connecting to other churches/nonprofits/etc
- Involvement with foster care
- winter coats
- beds through thrift store
- birthdays
- Department of Social Services (opioid crisis → more foster kids)
- connected to hospitals, Rising Hope, YMCA, to help foster kids’ birthdays
- gift certificates for foster parents
- giving kids training in thrift store
- LINC = 6 or 7 churches joining together for projects
- supporting Abernathy through thrift store
- Peacefully unified churches
- actively extend the welcome
- develop & seek out relationships with key community leaders, organizations, churches, non-profits, medical providers, schools, etc. – Canvas the community
- Healing conversations
- collaborate & delegate rather than compete to provide services
- network of churches, non-profits, and county government providing an umbrella of services
- advocacy
- power of an opportunity
- providing educational opportunities
- share and combine resources
- don’t compete for members, build ministries
- pray for others
- ministry of presence
- service – “love is acting others into well-being”
- build relationship – get to know our neighbor
- Be vulnerable
- be willing to move out of comfort zone.
- Seek justice. “Justice is what love looks like in public.”
- ALL people are worthy of our love.
- The practices of “keeping it shut” and curiosity