**Hospitality for people who use drugs/have a history of drug use is…**

\* a moral act

\* resistance

\* life-giving and life-sustaining

\* reciprocity

\* restorative

\* transformative

\* deep listening

\* mutual sharing of lives and stories

\* openness of heart

\* compassion

\* generosity of time and resources

\* willingness to make one’s life visible to others

\* welcome, rest, and promise of reception

\* a personal pursuit and a collective action

\* a way to transcend borders/boundaries

\* essentially rooted in harm reduction

\* explicitly non-judgmental

\* stigma free and committed to eradicating stigma

\* has different meanings in different locations (health center, CBO, church, etc.)

\* invites people in to places they may not otherwise go

\* points to a different system of valuing and alternate models of relationships

\* invites people in as well as outreaches

\* meets people where they are at

\* humanizes the drugs issue

\* universalizes the neighbor and particularizes the stranger

\* recognizes dignity as well as need

\* stands with and for

\* provides physical, social and spiritual nourishment

\* is pragmatic

\* is knowledgeable about the issues people impacted by drugs face

\* is access to low threshold and life-saving resources

\* is connection

\* is ultimately shaped by people who use drugs

\* sees the Divinity in each person

\* anticipates God’s hospitality

\* is a concrete expression of Love

**Questions/Topics for Discussion…**

How does the community/how do people who use drugs know that they are welcome and wanted? (or are they?) (are there conditions?)

How can we strengthen hospitality for people who use drugs/their loved ones here at Judson Memorial Church? in this moment? in our wildest dreams? what would inclusion look like?

What are the barriers to growing hospitality offerings for communities impacted by drug use? sex work? in a congregational setting

What are the challenges and opportunities for the congregation?

How can congregations be moved around complex issues such as substance use? sex work?

What are the next steps to becoming more informed on the topic of drug/drug policy related harm?

What can we do now, as a community or person of faith, to engage the overdose crisis in our communities/my communities?

* Provide subsidized meeting and organizing space for unions of people who use drugs, community organizers, harm reduction organizations, and allied groups
* Host harm reduction safer injection, safer sex or overdose prevention kit parties in partnership with a local harm reduction organizations
* Host an overdose listening session in partnership with NC Council of Churches
* Provide space for self help groups who provide a range of different support options including SMART Recovery, Moderation Management, etc. as well as 12 step groups.
* Celebrate the life-saving work that harm reduction organizations and people who use drugs are doing.
* Celebrate/memorialize the lives of people we have lost to overdose
* Provide going home ceremonies for people who have died from overdose
* Talk about substance use, stigma, and healing from the pulpit, and invite people with lived experience to contribute/lead
* Invite local harm reduction and other allied organizations to hold an educational event at your place of worship
* Hold hospitality nights where people who do sex work and use drugs can come in and connect and get clothing and food and hang out together and get their hair cut and/or have makeovers (i.e You Can Rest Here…www.cornerproject.org)
* Make your worship space available to people who use drugs to hold their own service when not in use by your congregation (i.e the monthly Harm Reduction Family Love Feast at Judson Memorial Church and partner congregations throughout NYC)
* Lend your voice to press conferences and press releases etc. on issues impacting people who use drugs/drug user health and the impact of racialized drug policy
* Open a Safer Consumption Site or Overdose Prevention Center
* Host Naloxone Trainings and Distribution events
* Provide safer injection supplies/provide syringe exchange at your place of worship
* Provide space on your property/parking lot for mobile harm reduction providers
* Join the Faith in Harm Reduction National Working Group (contact [poellot@harmreduction.org](mailto:poellot@harmreduction.org))
* Join the Faith in Harm Reduction Mailing List for regional and national updates and events, community calendars, cameos on faith in harm reduction initiatives throughout the country, the harm reduction devotional, and other pertinent news and musings (https://harmreduction.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=902a267c624a31780f2479ee0&id=9054bfe0b1….or by visiting [www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org), click on Shaping Sanctuary under ‘our work,’ and select join mailing list)
* Join or support a local/regional harm reduction/community organization including:
* North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition - http://www.nchrc.org/
* Olive Branch Ministries - [olivebranchgals@gmail.com](mailto:olivebranchgals@gmail.com)
* Urban Survivors Union - http://ncurbansurvivorunion.org/
* Down Home North Carolina - https://downhomenc.org
* Educate yourself on medication assisted therapies including buprenorphine and methadone
* Reach out to a National Harm Reduction and Drug Policy Organizations to ask what advocacy and other options need your support:
* Harm Reduction Coalition: [www.harmreduction.org](http://www.harmreduction.org)
* Drug Policy Alliance: [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)
* Attend the 12 National Harm Reduction Conference and/or Faith Based Pre-Conference on Healing Justice and the Overdose Crisis on October 17 (Pre-Conf) and Oct 18-21 (National Conf) in New Orleans, LA.

http://harmreduction.org/conference/

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-in-harm-reduction-pre-conference-tickets-48425676502

**and soon to come** [**www.faithinharmreduction.org**](http://www.faithinharmreduction.org) **! for theological, liturgical, and other resources for crafting faithful responses to the overdose crisis.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**“Maybe I don’t want you to be injecting drugs, maybe I don’t want you to risk your life, but that doesn’t meant that I can’t accept that that is what you are doing with compassion, and ask how I can be helpful to you.” –** Andrew Tatarsky