

## ***Our Mission?***

*Too many transgender people struggle to believe that they can be who they are and still have a relationship with God. No matter what we believe about God's plan for us, surely it does not include creating obstacles for anyone to have a relationship with God.*

*Once, I listened (online) to a sermon by a pastor who spent an hour talking about how he thought, based on his understanding of God, that the United States government should execute people who are gay. I went to the town in Kansas where his church was and did a public presentation in the local library about my faith journey. When the local newspaper asked me why I was coming there at that time, if I was coming there in response to the pastor's sermon, I simply told them that I wanted people to hear a different message - a message of hope.*

*My hope, is to share a message of God's unconditional love for all people. Still, there is a great absence of understanding about what it means to be transgender. Unfortunately, for many people, being transgender becomes the definition of who we are. It is only one part of who we are.*

*My hope is to allow anyone who wants it, the opportunity to see the person, who happens to be transgender.*

*So that would be my mission - to offer the message that a person can be transgender and have a loving relationship with God - to share the message of God's unconditional love for all people - and to share my humanity with anyone who is willing to learn.*

## ***Answers to Common Questions***

### ***What is Transgender?***

*An umbrella term that encompasses anyone whose identity falls outside of the binary, stereotypical gender dichotomy. This includes all persons who are transgender, bi-gender, transsexual, gender queer, agender, gender non-conforming, gender questioning, and/or anyone who identifies as having or expressing a non-binary gender identity.*

### ***How do I set up a presentation?***

*Contact the Transgender Faith Tour by email at [transfaithtour@gmail.com](mailto:transfaithtour@gmail.com), through the website at [www.transfaithtour.org](http://www.transfaithtour.org) or by calling (785) 215-7436*

### ***Is the Transgender Faith Tour ministry limited to presentations about being transgender?***

*No. The Transgender Faith Tour is about sharing God's unconditional love. This includes presentations on faith, diversity, inclusion, and/or learning about transgender..*

### ***How can I make a donation to the Transgender Faith Tour?***

*Please make checks payable to Transgender Faith Tour and mail to: 119 SE 14th St Topeka, KS 66612, or visit the website at [www.transfaithtour.org](http://www.transfaithtour.org)*



### ***Letter From The Director***

*Thank you for your interest in The Transgender Faith Tour.*

*We believe that all persons are worthy of dignity and respect. Diversity is the amazing opportunity to learn more about each other, our selves, our lives, and God. Our hope, is to share God's unconditional love and the message that this never-ending, never-failing love is for all of God's children.*

*Knowledge and information are the keys to acceptance and understanding. Fear and ignorance are the locks. Whenever someone shares, a key is placed in a lock. Whenever someone listens, the key turns and the lock opens. Another human being has a bright new shiny key. Together, one person at a time, we change the world.*

*~ Stephanie*

*Stephanie Mott - Director  
Transgender Faith Tour  
[stephanie.mott@transfaithtour.org](mailto:stephanie.mott@transfaithtour.org)  
(785) 215-7436  
[www.transfaithtour.org](http://www.transfaithtour.org)*

## *Some of our faith presentations:*



*In Kansas unless otherwise specified.*

*Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka  
Metropolitan Community Church of the Palm  
Beaches (West Palm Beach, FL)  
First United Methodist Church (Lawrence)  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Topeka)  
Interfaith of Topeka  
First Event Conference (Boston, MA)  
Practice Spirit Do Justice (Minneapolis, MN)  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Salina)  
Mainstream Voices of Faith (Topeka)  
First Congregational UCC (Manhattan)  
Ecumenical Campus Ministries (Lawrence)  
Unity Church (Lawrence)  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Lawrence)  
Seneca Public Library  
United Church of Christ (Pensacola, FL)  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (West  
Plains, MO)  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
(Manhattan)  
First Baptist Church (Lawrence)  
Central Congregational UCC (Topeka)  
Joplin Diversity Fellowship (Joplin, MO)  
First Church of Norman UCC (Norman, OK)  
Mayflower Congregational UCC (Oklahoma  
City, OK)*

## ABOUT

*Hi. My name is Stephanie Mott. I was born in Lawrence, Kansas in 1957 and raised on a small farm outside of Eudora. My mom was the basis for anything I know about unconditional love and my dad was a good man and a great provider. I had two sisters and two brothers. The first thing I remember knowing about myself was that I was like my sisters on the inside, and my brothers on the outside. The second thing I remember knowing about myself was that therefore, there was something drastically wrong with me and I could never talk about it with anyone.*

*As I grew older, the struggles of not being me grew more devastating. By the time I was 13, I was having daily thoughts of suicide and I had developed an understanding that undeniably told me that I had to choose between God and being my true self, the result of which was that I lost both my relationship with God and my battle with authenticity.*

*At the age of 18, I discovered alcohol and it helped take away the feelings of fear and shame, and the pain of not being able to be the woman of my soul. At the age of 48, I became homeless, still trying to live as a man and still struggling with not being able to stay sober. At this point in my life, I finally realized that I could not go on pretending to be a man, and that my only hope to be okay was to embrace myself as the woman I have always been.*

*At a chapel meeting in the homeless shelter in Topeka, Kansas, the people providing the service asked if anyone wanted to stand up and accept Jesus as their savior. I did.*

*Not long after that, I was invited to Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka. The woman who invited me there told me that there were transgender people there. It seemed impossible to me that there would be transgender people in a church, but I went anyway.*

## ABOUT (continued)

*At MCC of Topeka, I finally found a place where I could be me, in the house of the Lord, and not feel that I was judged. Stephanie was born on the 23rd day of July, 2006 as she went to church for the very first time and found truth & self in the eyes of the Lord.*

*In the eight or so years since that day, I have remained sober. I have served for two years as the Outreach Ministry Coordinator at MCC and for two years on the Board of Directors. I volunteer in the community, and I work to provide education and advocacy for all persons who are marginalized.*

*I dropped out of college in 1980, but I went back to school in 2009. I now have an Associate's Degree in Human Services Management, and a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. I am working on my Master of Social Work Degree at this time, with anticipated graduation in May 2016.*

*I serve as a commissioner on the City of Topeka Human Relations Commission, as community liaison for transgender inmates at the Shawnee County Jail, and as executive director/president of the Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project. I am also the president of Capital City Now - the Topeka chapter of the National Organization for Women, president of Topeka Pride, and a board member for Equality Kansas, Topeka chapter.*

*As much as all of these things means to me, the great gift of authenticity is that I have discovered a relationship with God that is more amazing and wonderful than I could have possibly imagined. I have had the great honor to share my faith journey in many places, and I am called to continue down this path, wherever it leads me. It would be my great pleasure and honor if you should like to come along.*

*Peace, Blessings, & Joy - (God's PB&J).*

*~ Stephanie*