Gerri Cannon  
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Biography:
Gerri lives in Somersworth, NH and was elected to the City School Board in 2017. In 2018, Gerri was elected to the NH House of Representatives and represents the city of Somersworth and the town of Rollinsford. She sits on the House Health, Human Services and Elderly affairs committee. Gerri is a Transgender Advocate and a member of the NH Conference of UCC Churches, Open and Affirming Concerns Committee. She has presented at educational sessions for Church congregations and businesses throughout NH.

Gerri was a member of the Freedom NH Steering Committee and is a spokesperson for Transgender equality. She has been discussing Transgender topics for Speak Out Boston, PFLAG NH, Freedom NH, and with the NH State Legislature for over 15 years. She worked for the combined companies of Digital, Compaq and Hewlett Packard for over 30 years in a wide variety of Engineering and Marketing roles. She ran her own Carpentry Business in Merrimack, NH and has driven Tractor Trailers cross country. Gerri graduated Magna Cum Laude from SNHU in 1998 and holds a BS in Business.

Presentation Description: Why Open and Affirming Churches are important!
LGBTQ people and others who don’t conform to social norms are often turned away from houses of worship or limited in their ability to become full members. Gerri has been in the position of trying to rebuild her life and find a new spiritual home. She has experienced the pain of being told that People like her are unwanted in some churches. She has experienced feeling like an outcast while attending some churches.

Gerri will share her story and work with attendees to better understand why Open and Affirming Churches are potentially life saving to many people struggling in our society. And she will help people understand that flying a Rainbow Flag outside the church doesn’t make a Church Open and Affirming. How people welcome each other into the church does.

When and Where:
Gerri has given sermons, mission moments and interactive lectures all over the State of NH and New England. She is a very busy person and appreciates scheduling events as far in advance as possible. She only asks Church groups to cover her transportation costs.