

Supporting LGBTQIA+ Folks in Congregations

Beginnings

- Use gender neutral terms (“partner” instead of “husband/wife,” “friends” or “kindred” instead of “brothers/sisters,” “community” instead of “fellowship,” etc.)
- Sing hymns or songs that are welcoming to LGBTQIA+ persons (“For Everyone Born,” “Bring Many Names,” “Live into Hope,” etc.)
- Offer prayers and liturgy that explicitly name LGBTQIA+ issues, persons, and inclusion

Progress

- Develop a Welcoming Statement
- Add pronouns on email signatures and name tags
- Offer studies on books dealing with LGBTQIA+ topics
- Update your church wedding policy to offer wedding ceremonies for same-sex couples
- Offer mission opportunities dealing with LGBTQIA+ topics
- Work with state and local organizations on addressing issues dealing with LGBTQIA+ persons
- Have LGBTQIA+ leadership (clergy, staff, elders, deacons, etc.)

Radical

- Designate gender neutral bathrooms
- Display signs of welcome for LGBTQIA+ folks either virtually or physically (Welcoming Statement, rainbow colored logos, etc.)
- Offer public witnessing events on behalf of LGBTQIA+ persons and families (letter writing, legislative visits, etc.)
- Offer worship services around coming out, gender transitioning, renaming, etc.

“The holy work of welcome is a lifelong journey for everyone. There are countless milestones to be reached in a faith community to welcome, include, and advocate for LGBTQIA+ people and their families and other marginalized communities. These milestones will be reached through ongoing education, relationship building, and staying up to date on LGBTQIA+ needs.”

-Building an Inclusive Church (ReconcilingWorks)