

**COMING
HOME**

TO FAITH

TO SPIRIT

TO SELF



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION

™

WELCOME



Dear friends,

Having grown up in a Southern Baptist household in a small town in Arkansas, I understand the role religion plays in the daily lives of so many Americans.

The rhythm of my childhood was punctuated by Bible study, Sunday worship and church potlucks. We looked to our ministers and lay leaders for guidance on how to respond to the big moral questions and to the daily challenges of life.

Right now, this country is deeply divided into two Americas—one where LGBT equality is nearly a reality, and the other where LGBT people lack the most fundamental measures of equal citizenship. All too often, religious communities are blamed for this divide. Regardless of which America an LGBT person may find themselves in, religion is often perceived and used as a weapon against LGBT equality. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Growing up in the Church, I often saw the power of faith as a uniting force, bringing out the best of who we are as Americans. Despite what some say, faith can be equally powerful and uniting for LGBT people – even in the heart of the Bible Belt. But it requires LGBT people, their families and friends to reclaim their religion and faith.

Whether you are exploring a new spiritual home, thinking about reconnecting to a religious tradition, or seeking ways to create a more welcoming place of worship for LGBT people of faith, my hope is that this guide will assist you on your journey.

Chad Griffin

President, Human Rights Campaign

A NEW DAY DAWNING

Life for many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people has changed dramatically. Among other breakthroughs, marriage equality is becoming law in a growing number of states. What few people realize is that these history-shifting events are largely due to faith communities taking a courageous, love-affirming stand.

As religious institutions raise their voices for justice and inclusion, LGBT folks, long closeted, are wondering if they might finally be open in their faith communities. Others consider returning to the communities they loved, but found unwelcoming. Straight allies, too, have new hope that their places of worship will finally rise to a standard of full inclusion.

Living openly within a community of faith can be a challenging endeavor for LGBT members. The potential rewards, though, include the gifts of spiritual renewal, the joyful celebration of your unique self, and the opportunity to transform the hearts and minds of those around you.

While many people enjoy a rich, spiritual life outside the realm of organized religion, this guide is aimed at folks who hope to lead their faith communities toward a more welcoming stance, and those seeking a path back to beloved traditions. Because each of those traditions is built upon its own complex history and doctrine, these pages will offer general, overarching insights and suggestions. The hope is always to spark new ideas, new dialogue and new courage. (Also available from HRC are guides specific to the Catholic, Jewish and Muslim faiths.)

“I grew up in a Baptist church. It wasn’t until I reached my teens that I realized the church despised everything I stood for. Fifteen years later, I go to church feeling loved, accepted, and respected for who I am as a transgender man. Being involved in a (non-denominational) church is one of the best feelings I have ever felt.”

— **Tye West**, 2014 Trans 100 Honoree

Each spiritual journey contains its unique challenges. It’s important to be mindful of your own spiritual, emotional, and mental health. For those who seek a way to return to a faith community, or to live more fully within it, it’s especially important to pick the path that best suits your needs, and that brings you safely home — to become a part of this new day dawning.

THE BIG PICTURE

As you read this, the world is changing. The spectrum of choice offered to LGBT people and their allies broadens daily. At one end are individual communities and entire faith traditions that advocate for the rights of LGBT people. At the far extreme are communities, large and small, that reject LGBT people or accept them only if they deny their true selves. In the middle are the faith communities grappling with how to respond to LGBT people both within and beyond their immediate circle. These communities have the opportunity to move in either direction, toward inclusion and welcome — or away from it.

“Ballot measures, state legislatures, and Supreme Court decisions testify to a new public consensus on gay marriage, the political issue that currently serves as the chief proxy for attitudes toward gay rights and acceptance. Gradually, and largely below the radar, religious Americans have powered this momentous shift.”

— **Molly Ball**, Journalist, *The Atlantic*



Depending on a faith community's position, an LGBT person or ally who seeks to live openly within their faith tradition will face different challenges and a differing degree of difficulty. Our goal is to give people of faith the tools they need to come home. This might mean finding the strength to be fully yourself in a community that is not entirely welcoming.

It might mean working from within a faith community to create the home you always wanted. In some cases, it might mean finding a new home altogether, where inclusion is synonymous with faith itself.

THE BIG PICTURE



“I came from a devout Roman Catholic family. During the AIDS crisis and epidemic, when I was in my 20s, I realized that I was gay. Coming out was not an option. My mother shut that door when she said that AIDS was God's way of getting the gays. So I never came out. I missed every holiday and family function year after year. When I did attend, it felt like I was leading two separate lives. Even after my parents passed away, I didn't go back to church, so I never had an opportunity to heal.

Then I discovered Plymouth United Church of Christ in Shaker Heights, Ohio, after much persuasion from my wife. During service, my son raised his hand asking for prayers for his mom to get a job. At the end of service, the minister standing at the door greeted us and said, “This must be your mom.” Then, the minister's Christ-like act forever changed me: she embraced me. That is when I found my home in the United Church of Christ, and for the first time I felt welcomed and affirmed. Today, I'm a proud, active member of the congregation.”

— **Char Ligo**, United Church of Christ

EVERY JOURNEY IS UNIQUE, BUT HERE YOU'LL FIND GUIDANCE ON:



ESTABLISHING AND
OWNING A FAITH IDENTITY



SHARING YOUR
UNIQUE GIFTS



TAKING STOCK OF
YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY



TAKING STEPS
TO PREPARE



ENCOURAGING INCLUSION
WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



COMING HOME — OR
FINDING A NEW ONE

There is also a wealth of resource material at the back of the pamphlet, and additional material is always available at hrc.org/religion.

ESTABLISHING AND OWNING A FAITH IDENTITY



Neurologist, psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor Victor Frankl taught that our religious self is intrinsic to our being. To deny its power, he said, is as debilitating as denying our sexuality, or any core element of our identity. For that reason, rejection by a beloved faith community can be a devastating experience.

Frankl's message, though, emphasizes the importance of holding onto that religious self, and caring for it. In facing the challenges posed by an unwelcoming community, it's important to have a clear sense of your own faith identity — to be aware of the spiritual home at your core. Happily, it's at that very core that we often find common ground — and welcoming friends.

Every faith tradition — large and small — is built on a journey toward fulfillment for both the individual and the community. All traditions, for example, have some form of the Golden Rule, stressing the importance of treating others with the same respect and care that we expect for ourselves.

These underlying, all-embracing values form the roots of faith shared by millions of religious and spiritual folks. It's helpful to name those values for yourself, to hold them close—and to examine where your faith community rises to them, and where it might run astray.

“For Latinos, familia and God are critical components of the foundation of our culture. They are precious jewels in the treasure that is our raza. And these jewels are the birthrights of our children.”

— **Rosa Manriquez**, LGBT Advocate and a Mother Roman Catholic Immaculate Heart Community

IN GIVING SHAPE TO YOUR FAITH IDENTITY, IT'S HELPFUL TO ASK SOME KEY QUESTIONS, SUCH AS:

- What draws me to participate in a faith community?
- Where do my values match that community's, and where do they differ?
- How do my beliefs shape my day-to-day choices and actions?

It can be especially helpful to express your core spiritual or religious belief in a single sentence. A tough thing to do, but a helpful map for the journey ahead.



SHARING YOUR GIFTS



Living openly in a faith community can be challenging, but the potential rewards are enormous. As you breathe new life into the hidden corners of your life, you uncover new spiritual resources, and gain the opportunity to share that hard-won wisdom with others. You become proof that faith and LGBT identity are not mutually exclusive — that we exist and thrive within all faiths, everywhere.

It's possible that “coming out” to your faith community is going to make people uncomfortable. But by being open in a place of worship, you offer those same people the opportunity to love you more fully and honestly. That, in turn, helps the community become more spiritually responsive to the needs of all.

Just as it can take us a long time to live openly with ourselves and others, it may take your faith community time to come to terms with your sexual orientation or gender identity. Remember that change is unpredictable. It can move slowly, then speed up exponentially. Even if initial reactions are disappointing, they may soften over time.

But, a word of warning. You may find that the emotional and spiritual costs of being open in your faith community are too high. Trust your judgment and take your time. The resources at the back of this pamphlet provide important contacts specific to many faith traditions. Look for guidance on issues that relate to your unique needs and experience.

REMEMBER: IT'S YOUR JOURNEY. YOU GET TO DECIDE THE PATH AND THE PACE.

SHARING YOUR GIFTS



“In our Evangelical churches we pray often for God’s blessings and God graciously sends them our way. But do we receive all that God gives? I don’t think so. It’s like God gives us 10 presents every year for Christmas but we only open 9 and then ask for more. What I mean is that God has long been giving blessings to the church through the gifts of our LGBTQ friends but we’ve been too afraid to open them. Surely it diminishes who we are as a church and it seems to lack gratitude for all that God is pouring out.”

— **Rev Mark Tidd**, Co-Pastor, Highlands Church-Denver



TAKING STOCK OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

It is statistically proven that individuals who have met and become familiar with LGBT people are far more likely to be welcoming, and to stand up for LGBT equality. And what's true for the individual is true for the faith communities that they populate. Often the problem is that no one is willing to take the first step.

Many faith leaders are ready to be welcoming but wait for individual members to come forward. Potential allies are ready to be welcoming but wait for their leaders to set the tone. Understandably, LGBT members often wait for a clear signal that their true, entire selves will be fully embraced.



As you think about living openly in your faith community, it's important to have a clear idea of that community's overall personality, its spirit, and its ability to open itself to new ideas. To get a clear picture, consider the following questions:

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT MY RELIGIOUS LEADER?

- Does she speak about openness and diversity from the pulpit?
- Does he talk about LGBT people? If so, in what context?
- How does he handle controversial issues?
- Who does she quote from the pulpit, who does she look to for her own spiritual guidance?

TAKING STOCK OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY



WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT MY PLACE OF WORSHIP?

- Does it encourage discussion of controversial issues, or dictate a community-wide stance?
- Do leaders actively encourage diversity, and do their actions match their words?
- Is the individual interpretation of sacred texts encouraged, or are faith leaders accepted as authorities?

WHEN THE TIME COMES, WHO MIGHT I SPEAK TO FIRST?

- Are there individual members, or small study groups who know you well, and will value your honesty?
- Is there a committee — such as a social justice group — that might be interested in exploring LGBT issues?
- Can you trust an individual or group to be discreet as you take the first steps on your journey?

These are important questions to consider as you set out on the next step of your faith journey.

“Just after the United Methodist Church passed a new rule in 1984, stating that “self-avowed practicing homosexuals could not be ordained or be appointed within the UMC,” a member of the congregation I’d known for three years, came to me in great agony, crying and pouring his heart out to me, to tell me that he was leaving the church. He had been a member all of his life. He came out to me and began to tell me what it was like to be gay in the church and in society, and how harmful and painful it was to be told by his church that because of whom he loves, he was less moral, less human, had less dignity than those who are not gay. It was his integrity and dignity that compelled me to reexamine my own beliefs on homosexuality, and then study the church’s position and begin to challenge it. He made the difference.”

— **Rev. Jimmy Creech**, United Methodist Church, *Quoted in State of Beliefs, November 11, 2009*



TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE



As you consider the new role you intend to play in your faith community, it's helpful to think about the individual steps you'll take along the way. Here are some suggestions:

SEEK SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

When faced with tough times or difficult decisions, many people of faith turn to prayer, meditation or other spiritual practices. It's important to quiet the conflicting voices in your head and find an inner peace where you can remember the essence of who you are.

READ

Exploring the work of religious scholars on issues of sexuality can help you understand how sacred texts can be interpreted differently based on cultural or individual agendas. Often those texts are used to limit the ability of LGBT folk to live their lives fully. The religious organizations listed at the back of this guide can help you find suitable readings for your faith tradition.

FIND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Deciding to live openly is a personal process, but it's not something you have to face alone. Find a supportive individual or group outside your faith community. If you feel isolated from such support, consider joining an LGBT network, Facebook group or online chat.

TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE



MAKE AN INITIAL CONTACT

Consider carefully who to approach first, when to approach them, and what you wish to say. Some might find their religious leader to be relatively open to LGBT people, even though the congregation may feel hostile. Others might experience the reverse. Sometimes a choir director or lay leader may be more accepting than the congregation at large.

“Many faith communities are growing in awareness of transgender concerns and are interested in learning more about how they can be supportive. However, they are unfortunately few and far between. More often, local communities are in some phase of growth and development around our issues. Therefore, people of transgender experience often make it our first priority to find a local faith community that is open-minded and willing to grow with us as we express our needs. It’s often important to supplement the good intentions of local faith communities with online communities that have more experience with the specific experiences of transgender people of faith. A variety of faith-based networks for people of transgender experience can be accessed online through Facebook or email groups. Transfaith (www.transfaithonline.org) is a multi-faith resource where you can inquire to find out more about such resources.”

— **Chris Paige**, Executive Director, Transfaith

KNOW YOUR NEXT STEP

Before each difficult juncture in this process, commit to a follow-up act that celebrates your courage. You might ask a friend to expect your call after a potentially difficult meeting. You might commit to five minutes of meditative silence when you get home. Whatever the outcome — joyous or disappointing — identify an activity that acknowledges your accomplishment.



TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE

“I was a freshman in college in 1980. I was terribly depressed as I sought to balance a powerful call to ministry in a mainline Christian denomination with a growing clarity about my own homosexuality and the fact that it wasn’t going to change. Desperate for hope, I searched the card catalogue of the university library and found Millenkott and Scanzoni’s *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?* It was the first resource I’d ever seen on what the Bible really said—and didn’t say—about being gay. I read it as if drinking water in the desert.

I hid the little book inside a larger volume so no one would see. (It was a jailable offense to be a gay in my state in those bad old days.) I didn’t dare take the book out to the reading carrel, so I stood in the racks and read as fast as I could. Mollenkott and Scanzoni’s scholarship and courage literally saved my life and helped launch my career as a spiritual advocate for sexual and reproductive justice.

“Thanks be to God!”

— **Rev. Harry Knox**, Pres. and CEO, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC)

ENCOURAGING INCLUSION WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



“We struggled with joining The United Methodist Church because it had yet to take a stance for justice for LGBTQ people, but once we realized that our voices and experiences as straight allies could make a difference, we knew we had to stay and work for justice until all of God’s children were honored in our church.”

— **Revs. Laura and Brian Rossbert**, United Methodist Church

Many folks — LGBT and otherwise — have been disappointed by their faith community’s policy of exclusion. Some walk away in sadness or anger, others stay on but feel betrayed by a community that once felt like home.

Allies of the LGBT population can make enormous strides within their faith communities by “coming out” as individuals who are inclusive and loving of all people. By clearly stating your personal stance, you immediately provide a safer environment for LGBT people, and you create the potential for greater hope and greater honesty.



ENCOURAGING INCLUSION WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY

A helpful guide to determining the best steps for your faith community is the Welcoming Church Toolkit, from The Institute for Welcoming Resources, listed at the back of this pamphlet. To get started, consider the following:

FIND PARTNERS IN DIALOGUE

- Identify the individuals or small groups that might be open to a conversation about how to include and celebrate all people;
- Strike up personal, one-on-one conversations on LGBT issues that might lead to a larger, community-wide discussion;
- Reach out to a few, trusted people about the prospect of your faith community becoming an LGBT-welcoming place of worship;
- Consider meeting with your faith leader, or identify a lay leader focused on social justice and similar issues.

UNDERSTAND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- The process of creating a welcoming space is largely shaped by the structure of each faith tradition. For example, individual Baptist churches can make their own choices around inclusion. Catholic churches cannot. Check the resources at the back of this pamphlet for guidance on the specifics of your faith tradition.

SPARK CONVERSATION THROUGH EVENTS AND MEDIA

- Screenings of films like *HRC's Before God, We are all Family*; *Trembling Before G-D*; *For the Bible Tells Me So*, or *Love Free or Die* serve as eye-opening conversation starters;
- Diverse panel discussions that include LGBT persons, or parents of LGBT persons, create a model for an inclusive community;
- Guest speakers or preachers might explore alternative interpretations of sacred texts;
- Similarly, book clubs and study groups can examine texts that emphasize love and inclusion, or that explore issues such as marriage equality and gender identity.

It can take considerable courage to stand up for inclusion in a restrictive community. For a while, it might be an isolating experience. But for many, it's a call to live their faith more fully—and well worth the rewards.

ENCOURAGING INCLUSION WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



“For about ten years I stayed away from church, any church. I refused to pray, think about God or read my Bible. If God didn’t want me, I would make sure he knew that I didn’t want him either. Having grown up in the church, though, I slowly began to realize that I had to find my way back and that I needed God in my life. I was more myself as a male than I had ever been in my female body, and I still felt the pull of God on my spirit. When I met Bishop Tonyia Rawls of Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte, I found a new church home. I felt accepted and valued.”

“I was praying in my living room one night and I simply said, “yes” to whatever and however God wanted to use me. That was the turning point. It wasn’t about me anymore, but about what God wanted to do in my life. After that earnest prayer and total act of submission, I accepted what I understood as my continuing transition into a transmasculine role, and the calling on my life to live for God and not run from the judgment of others. I had claimed my male pronouns and was ready to move forward. This is what returning to the church looks like for me. It would be so much easier if all church environments were sensitive to diversity in all aspects. I had to remember that, just as I had to grow and transition, so does every other entity, including the church body.”

— **Mykal Shannon**, Freedom Center for Social Justice



COMING HOME — OR FINDING A NEW ONE



“As a straight ally of LGBTQ rights, I’ve raised my child and nurtured a progressive movement, Muslims for Progressive Values, where it is forbidden to discriminate. Our tag line is simply “a community where you can be yourself and Muslim.” Unless, we as individuals can express our thoughts, our identities void of prejudice, can a religious community call itself “peaceful and loving”?

— **Ani Zonneveld**, Founder & Pres., Muslims for Progressive Values

As a growing number of faith communities draw on their values of love and compassion to take a public stance for LGBT equality, people who left those communities — or left the very idea of faith — are considering a return. Doing so can be a complicated process, and requires care and consideration.

LGBT folk and their allies might find that a beloved faith community has significantly shifted its stance, and is a place where they can now feel welcome and proud. Others might discover that it’s impossible to be fully themselves — to feel at home — in the community where they were raised. But that doesn’t mean giving up on faith. It means that it’s time to start looking around.

There is a wide spectrum of religious traditions. Even within specific denominations, there is a wide range of attitudes to LGBT people. As you seek the home where you can live openly and participate with pride, it’s important to consider the following:

THE “OFFICIAL” STANCE OF A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OR DENOMINATION

Sometimes a national or global institution dictates inclusion, while individual communities remain unwelcoming. The opposite can also be true. It’s also possible that different branches – or

COMING HOME — OR FINDING A NEW ONE



synods – of a faith tradition have opposing views. Be sure to study both the institutional and community-specific attitudes of the traditions that interest you.

THE PUBLIC FACE OF A FAITH COMMUNITY

A community's website can reveal a lot about its attitudes and practices. For example, check to see if women are in leadership roles, if photos suggest a diverse population, if issues you hold sacred are being addressed by committees and leaders.

AFFILIATIONS BEYOND THE FAITH COMMUNITY

It's always a good sign if a faith community collaborates with inclusive groups. They might provide space for a PFLAG chapter, or a gay-straight alliance. They might have a history of addressing the AIDS crisis, or of supporting marriage equality and other social justice issues.

THE WORDS OF FAITH LEADERS

A faith community's website often provides transcripts or recordings of recent sermons. You might also find that a rabbi, imam, or pastor has a publishing history. Do a quick search for articles, op-eds, or books. All of these will provide a clear idea of the faith leader's stance on key issues.

The resources at the back of this book can guide you to a wide range of welcoming faith communities. If you're finding it difficult to find a local community that is specifically welcoming of LGBT people, reach out to local LGBT-related organizations. Staff members are often helpful resources for information on your particular region. Social media groups can also provide insight and advice.

“If you go off by yourself, then it can become a kind of narcissistic enterprise, and you don't have people around you constantly testing your understanding of God. ... That's what makes me believe in the church, in the synagogue, in the mosque, because that's the community of people that can help us understand better what our perceived relationship with God is, and test it against all those many ways in which we can try to shape it out of our own personality.”

— **Bishop Gene Robinson**, The Episcopal Church Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress Member, HRC Religion Council

CONCLUSION



For many Americans, our religious communities play a critical part in defining who we are. Although faith certainly isn't central in every person's life, for many it is as essential to their identity as their sexual orientation and gender identity. What is complicated though is that for a long time our religious communities have been places where we have sadly often felt the most judged and the least safe. Thankfully we are seeing real changes.

Growing acceptance for LGBT people has had a positive effect on our faith communities. Today, over 5,000 Christian churches embrace the full inclusion of LGBT people or three streams of Judaism and seven Christian denominations now ordain LGBT clergy to serve as religious leaders. Even in more conservative faith communities, we are seeing seismic changes as younger religious leaders are demanding that their congregations become more inclusive. This change however is uneven and unpredictable for those on the ground. Sometimes an individual congregation may open its door even as the denomination remains hostile. Sometime in a traditionally hostile congregation, a small group will gather to begin dialogue and expand the conversation forward. Sometimes it means that a pastor has simply refrained from making jokes about LGBT people from the pulpit.

From a movement standpoint, all of these changes are welcomed. We can clearly see a new day emerging where no one has to choose between who they are, whom they love, and what they believe. However, these changes can be deeply confusing for the person who is looking for a new spiritual home, returning to an old one, or considering becoming more open in their place of worship. Because faith is central in the lives of many of us, it is worth finding a congregation that fits with your spiritual and cultural values while not demonizing you for who you are or who you love.

Those who feel the deep pull of faith and are also LGBT, families or friends of LGBT people will hopefully find in this guide stories, strategies, and resources to help guide them as they ponder joining, rejoining, or being more open in their religious community.

Whatever your religious practice, we hope this guide will be of assistance to you. Drop us a line sometime at religion@hrc.org and let us know more about your journey through faith.

Dr. Sharon Groves

Director of the Religion and Faith Program
Human Rights Campaign Foundation

RESOURCES

CHRISTIANITY

Affirmation LGBT Mormon

Supports LGBTQ and Same Sex Attracted Mormons and their families, friends and Church leaders.

www.affirmation.org
contact@affirmation.org

Affirmation

An organization that challenges The United Methodist Church to be inclusive, and radically speaks out against injustice for LGBTQ people around the world.

www.umaffirm.org
umaffirmation@yahoo.com

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

Building the Welcoming and Affirming movement within the Baptist traditions.

www.awab.org
robin@awab.org

Axios

An organization for Eastern Orthodox, Byzantine Rite, and Eastern Catholic LGBT Christians.

www.axios.com

Believe Out Loud

An online network that empowers Christians to work for LGBT equality.

www.believeoutloud.com

Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interest

Cultivating an inclusive church and caring for the Mennonite and Brethren LGBT/allied community.

www.bmclgbt.org
bmc@bmclgbt.org

Call to Action

Educates, inspires and activates Catholics to act for justice and build inclusive communities through a lens of anti-racism and anti-oppression principles.

www.cta-usa.org

Covenant Network of Presbyterians

A national group of Presbyterian clergy and lay leaders working towards a fully inclusive church.

www.covnetpres.org
brian@covnetpres.org

DignityUSA

An organization working for respect and justice for all people—especially LGBT persons—in the Catholic Church.

www.dignityusa.org
info@dignityusa.org

Emergence International

A community of Christian Scientists, their families and friends providing spiritual and educational support for LGBT people.

www.emergence-international.org

Equally Blessed

An organization of faithful Catholics committed to full equality for LGBT people in the church and civil society.

www.equally-blessed.org

The Evangelical Network

An association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Straight affirming evangelical ministries and individuals.

www.t-e-n.org
info@theevangelicalnetwork.net

The Fellowship

A coalition of Christian Churches committed to radical inclusive ministry.

www.radicallyinclusive.com

Fortunate Families

A resource and networking ministry with Catholic parents of LGBT children.

www.fortunatefamilies.com
info@fortunatefamilies.com

Friends of LGBT Concerns

A Quaker faith community within the Religious Society of Friends that deeply honors, affirms, and upholds that of God in all people.

flgbtqc.quaker.org

Gay Christian Network

A Christian ministry building bridges and offering support for those caught in the crossfire of one of today's most divisive culture wars.

www.gaychristian.net

GLAD Alliance, Inc.

An organization transforming the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a just and inclusive church.

www.gladalliance.org
glad@gladalliance.org

RESOURCES

Integrity USA

An organization working for LGBT Episcopalians and their allies, families, and friends.

800-462-9498

www.integrityusa.org

Institute for Welcoming Resources - National LGBTQ Task Force

A national, ecumenical collaboration of the Welcoming Church Movement working to achieve full acceptance of LGBTQ in the life of the Church.

www.welcomingresources.org

info@WelcomingResources.org

Interweave

An organization working for LGBTQ Unitarian Universalists and their allies, families and friends.

www.uua.org/lgbtq

lgbtq@uua.org

Many Voices

A Black church movement for gay and transgender justice, that embraces the diversity of the human family and ensures that all are treated with love, compassion, and justice.

www.manyvoices.org

info@manyvoices.org

Metropolitan Community Churches

A movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people & proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality & sexuality.

www.mccchurch.org

info@MCCchurch.net

More Light Presbyterians

An organization working for LGBT Presbyterians and their allies, families, and friends.

www.mlp.org

info@mlp.org

New Ways Ministry

A ministry of advocacy and justice for LGBT Catholics, and reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities.

www.newwaysministry.org

info@newwaysministry.org

Pink Menno Campaign

An organization working towards the inclusion and welcome of LGBTQ individuals and their supporters in the Mennonite Church.

www.pinkmenno.org

pinkmenno@gmail.com

Reconciling Pentecostals International

A network of Pentecostal ministers, churches, and ministries working towards an affirming and inclusive church.

www.rpifellowship.com

rpifellowship@aol.com

ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation

An organization advocating for the full inclusion of LGBT Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church and congregations.

www.reconcilingworks.org

info@ReconcilingWorks.org

Room for All

A community of Christ-followers in the Reformed Church in America, committed to welcome and affirm LGBT people and their allies.

www.roomforall.com

info@roomforall.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship International

An organization providing a safe spiritual and social community for LGBTI current and former Seventh-day Adventists around the world.

www.sdakinship.org

info@sdakinship.org

Soulforce

An interfaith movement committed to ending spiritual violence perpetuated by religious policies and teachings against LGBT people.

www.soulforce.org

info@soulforce.org

UCC LGBT Ministries

An organization that provides support and sanctuary to LGBT people, and their families and friends.

www.ucc.org/lgbt

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church

An African-American LGBT spiritual organization.

www.unityfellowshipchurch.org

JUDAISM

Eshel

An organization working towards creating a community and acceptance for LGBT Jews and their families in Orthodox communities.

www.eshelonline.org

info@eshelonline.org

RESOURCES

Institute for Judaism and Sexuality

An organization working towards a complete inclusion and welcoming of LGBT Jews in communities and congregations.

www.huc.edu/ijso

Keshet

An organization working for the full equality and inclusion of LGBT transgender Jews in Jewish life.

www.keshetonline.org

info@keshetonline.com

Nehirim

A national community of LGBT Jews, families, and allies, committed to a more just and inclusive world.

www.nehirim.org

info@nehirim.org

ISLAM

Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity

An organization working to support, empower and connect LGBTQ Muslims.

www.muslimalliance.org

info@muslimalliance.org

Muslims for Progressive Values

An inclusive community rooted in the traditional Qur'anic ideals of human dignity and social justice.

www.mpvusa.org

info@mpvusa.org

NON-ABRAHAMIC

The Gay and Lesbian Vaishnava Association, Inc.

A religious organization offering positive information and support to LGBTI Vaishnavas and Hindus, their allies, families and friends.

www.galva108.org

Gay Buddhist Fellowship

An organization for LGBT Buddhists and their allies, families, and friends.

www.gaybuddhist.org

LGBT Humanist Council

A forum for LGBTQ Humanists and allies to come together, build community, and work together to achieve full social and civil equality

www.lgbthumanists.org

Nalanda LGBT Buddhist Cultural and Resource Center

An organization for LGBT Buddhists and their allies, families, and friends.

www.nalandalgbtbuddhist.org

MULTI-FAITH

Faith in America

An organization working to end the harm to LGBT youth and families from misguided religious teaching.

www.faithinamerica.org

info@faithinamerica.org

GLAAD Religion, Faith and Values Program

A program of GLAAD working to amplify the voices of LGBT-affirming communities of faith and LGBT people of faith.

www.glaad.org/programs/faith

murray@glaad.org

HRC Religion and Faith Program

A program of HRC helping shape a world where no one has to choose between who they are, whom they love and what they believe.

www.hrc.org/religion

religion@hrc.org

National LGBTQ Task Force: Faith

An organization working to amplify the voices of faith leaders to counter religiously-based bigotry.

www.thetaskforce.org/issues/faith

faith@thetaskforce.org

Religious Institute

A multifaith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education, and justice in faith communities and society.

www.religiousinstitute.org

Transfaith

A national non-profit that is led by transgender people and focused on issues of faith and spirituality.

www.transfaithonline.org

Transgender Faith and Action Network – Freedom Center for Social Justice

An organization that offers for trans people of faith and allies to vision, build, grow, heal and shift culture within faith communities and the world.

www.tfaan.org

admin@TFAAN.org

Grounded in the highest ideals of our diverse faith traditions, we are called to help shape a world in which no one has to choose between who they are, whom they love, and what they believe. To learn more, visit us at www.hrc.org/religion

Contact: religion@hrc.org



**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN**
FOUNDATION[™]

1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-3278
www.hrc.org