

PFLAG



Faith in Our Families

Parents and Families Talk About Faith, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression

HELP

If you or a loved one needs immediate assistance, we encourage you to seek out help.

For LGBTQ+ youth, please contact The Trevor Project online at thetrevorproject.org/pages/get-help-now, or call one of the following:

Helplines

The Trevor Project (for LGBTQ+ youth up to age 24):

(866) 488-7386

Text START to 678-678

Online chat: thetrevorproject.org/get-help/

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

(800) 273-8255

Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

Trans Lifeline:

(877) 565-8860

The National Runaway Safeline:

(800) RUNAWAY (800-786-2929)

National AIDS Hotline:

(800) 342-AIDS

(800) 344-7432 (Spanish)

(800) 243-7889 (TDD)

U.S. National Domestic Violence Hotline:

(800) 799-7233 (English and Spanish)

(800) 787-3224 (TTY)

Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN):

(800) 656-HOPE

(800) 810-7440 (TTY)

ABOUT PFLAG

PFLAG is an organization of LGBTQ+ people, parents, families, and allies who work together to create an equitable and inclusive world. We are hundreds of thousands of people and hundreds of chapters from coast to coast who are leading with love to support families, educate allies, and advocate for just, equitable, and inclusive legislation and policies.

Since our founding in 1973, PFLAG works every day to ensure LGBTQ+ people everywhere are safe, celebrated, empowered and loved. Learn more, find support, donate, and take action at [PFLAG.org](https://pflag.org).

Our Mission. To create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

Our Vision. An equitable, inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved.

About this Publication

Faith in Our Families: Parents and Families Talk About Faith, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression is copyrighted. For reprint permission, please contact the PFLAG National office via email at love@pflag.org or by phone at (202) 467-8180.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About PFLAG	1
Beginning.....	4
Discovering	6
Exploring.....	7
Considering.....	9
Possible Paths.....	11
Sharing Your Story	15
Continuing the Journey	16
Personal Stories.....	17
Resources	19

BEGINNING



Learning that a family member or friend is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) can pose new questions for people of faith.

For some, the revelation might prompt them to re-evaluate beliefs that they previously took for granted. If you are reading this publication, you likely consider yourself a person of faith and might be pondering these questions yourself, wondering—as many people do—if this revelation will influence your religious beliefs or relationship with your faith community.

These questions are common, and you are not alone in asking them. Exploring these issues may be tough at first; many people have been taught not to question their faith or its teachings. But for others, working to reconcile long-held religious beliefs with their love for an LGBTQ+ person leads to new revelations and sometimes a renewed commitment to both their faith and faith community. The questions and revelations gained from asking them can set you on a journey from who you were to who you want to be, a path that isn't always clear.

This book won't provide textual interpretation of the Bible, Koran, Torah, Karmic Sacred Texts, or any other religious writings. Widely respected scholars disagree about many details in scripture and sacred text, and at PFLAG National, our role is not to question those interpretations. Rather, we are here to provide support and education as you consider your questions and ideas about the intersection of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and faith.

We'll also share personal stories from a variety of faith traditions about their experiences, to hopefully serve as a starting point for your journey. Our goal is to support you in your conversations with and about LGBTQ+ loved ones, and faith leaders to hopefully bring about understanding, transformation, healing, and offer space for reconciliation.

“I offer love and support to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities as God has called me to. Many societies have mistreated, misrepresented, and misunderstood LGBTQ+ folks, and as a Christian I will offer additional love and support to those oppressed by society...I am called to trust God’s will and plan, regardless of what some religious organizations might teach. I am called to love my neighbor, practice humility, and seek God’s word with diligence and intelligence. God wants us to fully understand his scripture and teachings and the context and meaning of those words.”

– Dr. Joshua Moon-Johnson (he/him); PMJ Consulting, LLC.
(Christian Non-Denominational)

No matter how you travel the path, remember that coming out might be one of the most difficult and scary experiences an LGBTQ+ person will have; the prospect of losing loved ones because of who you are is unthinkable for most, but is a reality for many in the LGBTQ+ community. If a loved one or friend comes out to you, it means they trust you with this information. If you have any struggle finding peace with this news, especially as it relates to your faith, start with this: your loved one is the same person that you have always loved. Treat yourself with compassion as you begin the work to reconcile this new information with your long-held faith beliefs.

You may feel isolated in this work, but you are in the company of many who know how you feel and who have found this process genuinely enlightening. Find them and talk about it. As always, your local PFLAG chapter can be a source of support during this time.

DISCOVERING



Finding out that a friend or family member is LGBTQ+ can interrupt the path you were taking within your faith community, leading you to reflect on your beliefs and how they relate to LGBTQ+ people. The journey is ongoing and can lead in many directions, from mourning the loss of long-held beliefs to celebrating and embracing new ideas.

As the journey continues, many people are inspired to stay within their current faith communities, working to create change and healing, while others decide to consider new faith communities that are already open and affirming. All paths are important and valid, and there is no right or singular way to navigate.

No matter where the journey leads, the first point on this path is to get support. Finding out that your child or loved one is LGBTQ+ raises many questions, and getting answers to those questions will pave the way for the spiritual exploration to come. PFLAG provides this support in communities across the country, with other families who are having a similar experience, as well as those who have taken this journey and are now committed to helping people who are starting theirs. PFLAG chapters host support groups that are non-judgmental, confidential, and provide the space you need to start getting answers. You can find a PFLAG chapter by visiting pflag.org/find.

EXPLORING



When asking spiritual questions, the answers you find may be life altering. After all, you might be challenging or rethinking beliefs you've held for your entire life. For many people, the process of questioning and exploring their faith tradition brings them a closer connection and deeper understanding of that tradition.

Is it okay to ask these questions, to challenge your faith leader and/or religious doctrine? Yes. In fact, there are many scholars and religious leaders of various faith communities who encourage critical engagement with sacred texts.

Be gentle with yourself. Realize that asking questions and exploring many possible answers is an important start to being a supportive person to your LGBTQ+ loved one.

A good way to begin is to make a list of what information you want to gather as you start exploring your relationship with your faith community and its views. Some of the most common questions include:

- ♥ What is my religion's (or faith/spiritual tradition's) teaching about being LGBTQ+?
- ♥ Are there other people from my faith tradition who have navigated this path? How have they reconciled teachings regarding being LGBTQ+? Are these interpretations generally accepted?
- ♥ Are LGBTQ+ people allowed to serve or included in positions of leadership within my faith tradition? Are they included in leadership in my personal congregation?
- ♥ What place do LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones have in my religion/faith community?

**“As a rabbi—and the parent of a gay child—
I realize that the goal of equality,
acceptance, and the celebration of committed
relationships shared in the LGBTQ+
community cannot become part of the fabric
of our society without the supportive voices
of allies and members of our religious
institutions and faith communities. I want that
to happen and for my child and all of our
LGBTQ+ loved ones, I need that to happen.”**

– David M Horowitz, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Israel, Akron, Ohio and past Board Chair, PFLAG National

- ♥ Does my religion formally provide positive support for LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones? If yes, what kind of support is offered; and is it healthy and accurate? If not, where can LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones find support?
- ♥ Are there various or conflicting views about LGBTQ+ people within my faith community? How—if at all—do these play out in my personal congregation?
- ♥ What are the personal views of my religious leaders and my faith community’s lay leaders on this topic?

These are big questions, and finding the answers often takes time and personal reflection. Allow yourself time to live without concrete answers. We acknowledge this can be hard, but this period of exploration and reflection is an important part of your journey. This can be unsettling, even when you have support, but it is often part of the process, and an idea inherent in faith itself.

The resources listed at the end of this publication are useful sources of information and support, in addition to reaching out to your local PFLAG chapter [pflag.org/find]. You can find an expanded list of faith resources at pflag.org/resource/pflag-national-faith-resources/.



CONSIDERING

Some families find themselves in what appears to be an untenable situation—they love their LGBTQ+ family member or friend, but their religion teaches them that their loved one is sinful, wrong, or must “change” to be faithful. Some people feel that their only solution is to cut either their loved one or their faith out of their life. While these may seem like the only solutions at hand, they are not. Many denominations have worked to create support networks within their own traditions.

Many religious groups have wrestled with these issues and decided to be more welcoming to LGBTQ+ people. Here are just a few examples from a variety of faith traditions:

- ♥ The Episcopal Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Unitarian Universalists welcome and affirm LGBTQ+ members at a national level. We encourage you to look for the Open and Affirming seal in many of these churches or ask your faith leaders where they stand on the lives of LGBTQ+ people.
- ♥ Presbyterians, Lutherans, and United Methodists have welcoming and affirming congregations (sometimes called “Open and Affirming”). Ask if they are members of More Light Presbyterians, Reconciling Ministries, or Reconciling Works.
- ♥ The Jewish community has affirmed the lives of LGBTQ+ people since the Union of Reform Judaism welcomed LGBTQ+ people. Their opening of doors was followed by the Reconstructionist and recently the Conservative Associations of Judaism opening their synagogues and temples to all.

“Dharmic scriptures speak about ‘Swadharma’—that being true to ourselves, as imperfect as it may be, is better than aligning with someone else’s truth.

For me, this means supporting our LGBTQ+ community in being true to our divine nature.

In other words, we’re perfect as we are.

The divine has created us to take up space and shine in our authenticity. My goal as a Spiritual leader is to foster a space of inclusion centered on this divine love and ability to show it just as we are. It is to be an advocate, cultivate community, and most of all to be a grounding force.”

– Dr Raja G. Bhattar, Hindu

♥ Islam has taken a different route, with Mosques around the world being beacons of comfort and open doors as well as individual Imams creating intentional Muslim communities to fill the void and provide care for LGBTQ+ Muslims worldwide.

A comprehensive list of resources from a variety of faith denominations can be found on the PFLAG National website, at pflag.org/resource/pflag-national-faith-resources/.

POSSIBLE PATHS



Countless people have found that considering their religion’s position on LGBTQ+ people is rewarding, deepening their commitment to their congregation, their faith, and their family.

Others find the process painful, causing them to wonder whether their faith tradition remains consistent with their evolving personal beliefs. Most people have a journey that encompasses both experiences.

Ultimately, there comes a time in this process of discernment where you might choose a path forward. If your religion is not accepting of your LGBTQ+ loved ones, you might wonder if you can comfortably continue practicing your faith. Would you consider leaving, or perhaps staying to be part of a process of change? What are your options?

In this section, you’ll find some common paths that people have taken; no matter which road you are on or which destination you choose, look for the path that best meets your needs.



Staying Within Your Faith Community

Sometimes people have the welcome revelation that the conflict they expected from their faith community either doesn’t exist or moves relatively quickly to a happy resolution. Other times, individuals determine that, despite some conflict, the prospect of changing faith communities is not viable, and the easiest or most practical solution is to live with that conflict.

When choosing to stay and the latter is true, some people avoid the potential for elevating that conflict (or rejection) by remaining “in the closet” about the fact that they have an LGBTQ+ loved one.

Even though an individual may still find themselves wrestling with questions—such as how to deal with the disapproval of a faith leader or other members of the community—continuing with the familiar is where they find peace. This is a common and legitimate choice for many; for some it will be a permanent solution, for others it will be a temporary stop along the way.



Encouraging Change Within Your Faith Community

Some people choose not only to stay within a faith community that has conflicting beliefs, but also to work to bring about change and create a space within their congregation that is welcoming to LGBTQ+ people and their families. While these efforts can be very rewarding on both a spiritual and practical level, they can also be very challenging. It is realistic to expect that, as an advocate, you will get pushback; fortunately, you're never alone.

Many faith traditions have groups working on LGBTQ+ issues within their denominations. Visit pflag.org/resource/pflag-national-faith-resources to access a list of faith and denomination-specific LGBTQ+ support and advocacy groups.

If your faith tradition does not already have such a group, you may choose to start this work yourself, with the goal of bringing about change. You can look to join forces with others within your congregation or faith community to open communication channels with your faith leaders, to their supportive councils, and to lay leadership. There is strength in numbers, and knowing you are not alone in working to move your community to a better place can create a sense of purpose.

PFLAG National has resources to help you with this work:

Publications

- ♥ *be not afraid - help is on the way! straight for equality in faith communities*
[pflag.org/benotafraid]

This helpful and easily accessible guide from our Straight for Equality™ program offers ways to engage as an ally of faith, and to make your community more welcoming, with practical tips for engaging in the challenging conversations that bring about change and that allow everyone to come to the conversation with an open heart.

PFLAG Academy Online sessions

- ♥ “Have Faith! Straight for Equality in Faith Communities”
[pflag.org/resource/pao-havefaith-s4erecording]
- ♥ “How to Stop Arguing About Religion But Make Your Point”
[pflag.org/resource/pao-howtostoparguingrecording]

“As a person of Faith, I support LGBTQ+ people because they are my brothers and sisters and siblings and my faith calls me to love, support and advocate for LGBTQ+ people because Jesus already said it, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

– Rev. James Martin, S.J., a Jesuit priest, author, and editor at large at America: The Jesuit Review

Making the decision to create change in a place that might not be ready or willing to do so can be hard. It can also be a spiritually fulfilling, proactive piece of work that can deepen your connections to your community and to your faith.



Changing Branches or Congregations Within Your Denomination

In undertaking an exploration of your faith, you might find that your denomination is welcoming, but your congregation is either not aligned with the faith’s teachings, or very early in the process of moving there. While you might decide to stay and help them improve, others might choose to move to either a different congregation, or perhaps consider changing branches within their denomination.

From very conservative to extremely progressive, faith communities offer a wide variety of ways to practice religion within the boundaries of what makes each one unique. Each religious leader has a distinctive style, and communities are full of unique personalities and beliefs. If you are uncomfortable with attitudes toward LGBTQ+ people within your existing congregation, you might consider finding another congregation where you will feel more comfortable and have a more spiritually nourishing experience.

In recent years, many communities of faith have developed specific congregations that are sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ+ people, their families, and their allies. These congregations are sometimes referred to as “open and affirming” and

have gone through a process of education and training, getting the support of the leadership and members of the congregation on becoming more inclusive of LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones. These congregations offer people a way to stay in their faith tradition, but in a setting more consistent with their evolving beliefs and needs. New congregations are always developing, so it is best to search online to find the one closest to you.

A word of caution: *Do your homework when looking to change congregations.* While some might have policies in place that designate that the congregation welcomes LGBTQ+ people without reservation, the climate within the congregation might still be on the journey to putting the policy into practice.



Investigating Different Faith Communities

It's unfortunately not uncommon for people to discover that their congregation or denomination is unwilling or unable to meet their new spiritual needs, or even actively works against LGBTQ+ inclusion. For some, leaving a tradition or a long-time spiritual home and refuge can be an emotional and difficult decision. For others, it can be a welcome relief.

Remember that regardless of your faith tradition, a religious community is supposed to be a place where you can spiritually grow and develop with love and compassion—a place of peace for all. To grow in your faith community, you must feel comfortable in that community, free from judgment. It may take time to find a new spiritual home but know that there is one for you. Don't feel you need to search alone; avail yourself of resources that can help you get started, including the ones on our website at pflag.org/resource/pflag-national-faith-resources.



Finding Faith on Your Own

The idea of leaving organized religion altogether can be daunting, however there are those who feel that their objections to the anti-LGBTQ+ views of their faith are stronger than their ties to a particular denomination, community, or tradition. Before you decide to leave your faith or organized religion altogether, be sure to reach out to others who have faced a similar decision to find out how they navigated this choice and to get support as you make your own choices.

No matter which path you take, decisions about your faith journey are personal and complex. Take your time, ask questions, and remember that you are not alone.

SHARING YOUR STORY



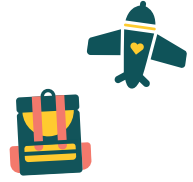
#PFLAGProud

As you become more open about your LGBTQ+ family member or friend, you may find that some individuals in your faith community—perhaps even your faith leader—will turn to you for support. Serving as a resource within your faith community and supporting others in their journey to understanding can help begin a dialogue and create a more welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ people, their families, and those who desire to become better allies.

By being open about your LGBTQ+ loved one in your faith community (with their permission, of course) you might hear from others who are LGBTQ+ or have LGBTQ+ loved ones but who might not have spoken up otherwise, and all will find comfort in knowing that they are not alone. Being the first one to speak up may be difficult, but it can begin a process of education in your congregation and beyond. Sharing the story of your journey in a personal, one-on-one setting is often one of the most spiritually fulfilling and powerful experiences that people have, with both sides of the conversation presenting a unique opportunity for understanding and transformation. Remember that it is in compassionate conversation—not confrontation—that you can soften hearts and change minds.

You do not have to have all the answers to be a resource; simply sharing your personal story makes a difference and shows people that faith comes in all shapes and sizes.

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY



Whether you're still at the threshold of the path and trying to see past the obstacles ahead, or nearing the end of your process, thank you for taking this important spiritual journey.

How people understand their relationship to faith can shift over time, so we hope that you will pick this publication up again from time to time to see what new insights emerge.

Please remember to visit our website (pflag.org) for an updated list of resources, materials, and information. At PFLAG you will always find a committed network of chapters and volunteers who are eager to support, guide, and encourage you.

No publication can take the place of hearing from families like yours who have wrestled with questions of faith and their child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Talk to families both within your faith community and in other faith communities. Ask them about their journeys to reconcile their religious beliefs and their love for their child. Share your story, and especially your struggle if you have one. By sharing, you will help others—and you will see you are not alone.

“I show my love for G-d as a parent, by loving G-d’s children as my siblings. Love, preach, and change the world. G-d doesn’t put extra people in this world. We see you. We love you. We need you.”

– Rabbi Mike Moskowitz Scholar-in-Residence Trans and Queer Jewish Studies
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (Jewish)

PERSONAL STORIES

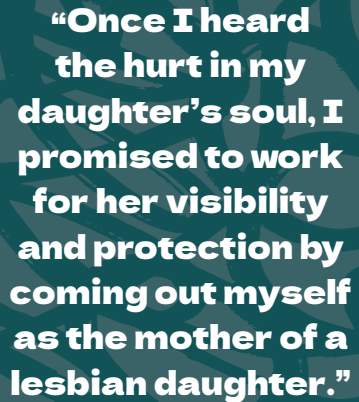
Rosa's Story

My name is Rev. Rosa Manriquez. I am Chicana, but mostly I say I'm La Raza. I am Catholic, a member of the Immaculate Heart Community and the mother of 2 lesbian daughters. I am the grandmother to three beautiful grandchildren and parent to their mothers—but one thing I am not is perfect.

While today I will say I love my daughters and will go to the death defending them, and have done so almost from the get-go, I know I also have regrets. My biggest one? Telling my daughter to keep her sexual orientation quiet so as not to ruffle feathers in my family and community in East LA. I hurt my child; I signaled I was ashamed. It was more about me than about her. Once I heard the hurt in my daughter's soul, I promised to work for her visibility and protection by coming out myself as the mother of a lesbian daughter.

I lean into Matthew 22:35-40:

³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



**“Once I heard
the hurt in my
daughter’s soul, I
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lesbian daughter.”**

Imam Daaiyee

I was born and raised in Detroit, MI. My family comes from a Southern Baptist background and today, I am one of a few openly gay Imams in the world.

How does a socially and politically aware young Black man become an openly gay Imam? First, I came out. I was 15 and told my family my truth, for I was told to always do so. Then, at 33, while studying in China, I converted. I converted to Islam, and went on to study the religion in Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Upon coming home, I saw the injustice, the hatred AND the rejection and pain of my Muslim LGBTQ+ siblings. In America, my home, I was struck by the unmet needs of my lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Muslim siblings and, always the problem solver, I heeded my call and became an Imam to provide community support.

Do you know how painful it is to see your brothers dying with the thought that the traditional rituals offered to all Muslims would be denied to them simply because they were gay? That was the reality of the 80s and 90s. Those were my first acts as an Imam.

I believe every person, no matter if I disagree with you or not, has the right as a Muslim to have the proper spiritual rites and rituals provided for you. And whoever judges you, that will be Allah's decision, not mine.

Wendy Montgomery *(modified from The Huffington Post)*

My husband Thomas and I grew up in devout Latter Day Saints homes (commonly known as Mormons). That meant the Church spoke, it asked, it ordered and you didn't question, you did, you followed. So back when Prop 8 in California was being debated in the court of public opinion and was up for a vote, our Bishop asked us to help, to participate, and just as we were raised we said yes, of course. We had no money to contribute but we had labor, we could canvass, so we did. We agreed to have a sign in our yard, we replaced it when stolen, and today it is one of my biggest regrets. I didn't know it at the time, but my eldest, my first born, passed that sign every day and wondered what was wrong with him, what did God think of him, what did his church think of him if they knew what he was asking himself.

For us the questions began when he was in junior high, a happy-go-lucky kid turned mopey, depressed, his grades dropped, and his smile disappeared. It was enough for us to become increasingly worried. So worried, I broke a privacy rule, one I have never broken again: I read his journal. Between that time and Super Bowl Sunday—or as we now call it, my son's coming-out 'versary—I was prepared to learn as much as I could and to love him as hard as I knew how. We wanted him to feel loved, not rejected as many others we knew. Today he is more loved than ever. I hope we always succeed!

RESOURCES

Visit pflag.org/resource/pflag-national-faith-resources for a list of resources from a variety of faith traditions. Here are some to get you started.

Affirmations (LDS)

affirmation.org

Affirmation creates worldwide communities of safety, love, and hope and promotes understanding, acceptance, and self-determination of individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions. They affirm the inherent self-worth of LGBTQ+ individuals as complete, equal, and valuable persons and support them as they define their individual spirituality and intersection with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

awab.org

As the only organization solely devoted to building the Welcoming and Affirming movement within the Baptist traditions, AWAB has a unique call to be The National Voice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allied Baptists in the US.

Coming Home to Self (Islam)

hrc.org/resources/coming-home-to-islam-and-to-self

This guide is aimed at LGBTQ American Muslims who are on the journey toward living fully in their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and in their faith and its traditions.

Dignity USA (Catholic)

dignityusa.org

Dignity USA works for the development of sexual and gender theology leading to the reform of its teachings and practices regarding human sexuality, gender identities, and gender expressions; works for justice and equality through education and by supporting social and legal reforms; and reinforces in LGBTQ+ people and their families a sense of self-acceptance and dignity, encouraging full participation in the life of the Church and society.

Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance (Disciples of Christ)

disciplesallianceq.org/about/

The Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance works to transform the Disciples of Christ church into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church.

Eshel (Jewish - Orthodox)

eshelonline.org/eshels-mission/

Eshel's mission is to create a future for Orthodox lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and their families. Through its innovative and culturally sensitive programming, Eshel works with each individual, family, and community in creating a place for their LGBTQ members.

Keshet (Jewish)

keshetonline.org/about-us/

By strengthening Jewish communities and equipping Jewish organizations with the skills and knowledge they need to make all LGBTQ Jews feel welcome, Keshet works to ensure the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and their families in Jewish life.

Metropolitan Community Church (Christian)

mccchurch.org/overview/

Since its founding in 1968, MCC has been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements by addressing important issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia, ageism, and other forms of oppression. Metropolitan Community Church proclaims and practices a spirituality that is anchored in the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ and confronts the issues of our volatile, uncertain, and complex world.

More Light Presbyterians (Presbyterian)

mlp.org/about-us/

More Light Presbyterians engages over 230 congregations and thousands of individuals in the Presbyterian Church (USA), enabling Presbyterians to lead LGBTQ+ service and advocacy in communities nationwide.

Rainbodhi (Buddhism)

rainbodhi.org

Rainbodhi is a spiritual friendship group for LGBTQIA+ Buddhists and an advocate for more inclusion and diversity in the broader Buddhist community.

Reconciling Ministries (Methodist)

rmnetwork.org

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Reconciling Works (Lutheran)

reconcilingworks.org

Reconciling Works advocates for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of LGBTQ+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

Unitarian Universalist Association

uua.org/lgbtq

UUs open their doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and work to value diversity of sexuality and gender. UUs strive to create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of their work.

United Church of Christ (UCC)

openandaffirming.org/ona/find/

UCC is a distinct and diverse community of Christians that come together as one church to join faith and action. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., many are considered Open and Affirming Churches (ONA).

“I support the LGBTQ+ community because the very vibrancy of our faith traditions and secular cultures depends on it. We can only build a world of justice, equity, dignity, and love, if all people experience these things—from other people and the systems in which we live.”

– Rabbi Becky Silverstein



LEADING WITH LOVE

PFLAG