

## LGBTQIA+ Ministry & Engagement Annual Report

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

### **Mission:**

To share Christ's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive, and transformational love to the members of the LGBTQIA+ communities.

### **Report:**

2024 is proving to be another difficult year for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, particularly our trans community. As we move toward the presidential election, yet again, the anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric is prolific. Politicians are using false narratives to instill fear and outrage to increase turn-out among their constituents. Please reach out to the LGBTQIA+ people in your life to share your love and support. We need it!

As I complete my first year in the missionary role, I am pleased to say we are making progress in many ways. The Rev. Diana Wheeler has accepted the role of Chaplain for LGBTQIA+ Ministry and Engagement (Thank you, Diana!). We have established a diocesan wide LGBTQIA+ and Allies group, which meets online, monthly. I know of fifteen different parishes which participated in their local pride events spreading the love of Christ. I offer my sincere gratitude to all the parishes for the work they are doing in their local communities. Our most rural parishes are beacons of hope, love, and acceptance for LGBTQIA+ people in their areas – and often, the ONLY safe space available. Highlights for me were the Pride Evensong at Trinity CWE – we had a packed, rainbow-filled church; the interfaith service at St. Louis PrideFest; and "Mass on the Grass" at Tower Grove Pride. I also had the honor of leading a workshop on "Creating a Welcoming & Affirming Parish" for LGBTQIA+ People" at the Big Provincial Gathering (Province 5) in South Bend, Indiana. Wonderful things are happening!

Looking toward 2025, I plan to continue to build relationships across the diocese (and beyond), strengthen our community, begin more in-person gatherings, and look for opportunities to provide more resources and support for our parishes and their LGBTQIA+ ministries.

Faithfully yours,

DeWayne Trainer,

*Missioner for LGBTQIA+ Ministry & Engagement*

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