



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

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Dear Siblings in Christ,

With humility and deep sorrow, we, in the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, offer this statement of apology to the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

We acknowledge that the Church universal has played—and in many places continues to play—a harmful role in the persecution, rejection, and exclusion of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. Too often, the sacred teachings of a loving, liberating, and life-giving God, in whose image every human being is created, have been misused to justify prejudice, discrimination, and violence. These distortions have inflicted deep wounds and denied the dignity and belovedness of LGBTQIA2S+ people.

We confess that we have not lived into Christ's command to love one another as God has loved us. We have turned away from the call to justice, chosen silence over solidarity, and clung to comfort at the expense of compassion. For our willful ignorance, for the harm caused by our actions and inactions, and for our failure to affirm and support our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings, we are truly and profoundly sorry.

We repent of the times we have allowed tradition, fear, or institutional self-interest to take precedence over truth and love. We recognize the deep pain caused by the Church's complicity in systems of oppression and the personal and spiritual trauma endured by LGBTQIA2S+ individuals within our communities.

With God's help, we commit to walking a new path—one rooted in justice, reconciliation, and radical love. We pledge to listen with humility, to learn from those we have harmed, and to work tirelessly to ensure that The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri is a sanctuary of belonging and affirmation for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

May our apology be more than words. May it be the beginning of lasting transformation and healing. And may the light of Christ guide us into ever-deeper truth, justice, and love.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

XI Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

